FILMDOM'S UNLIKELY LEADING MAN

JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT'S STAR RISES WITH EACH 'FORMIDABLY SURPRISING' PERFORMANCE PAGE 17

OTTAWA metro

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

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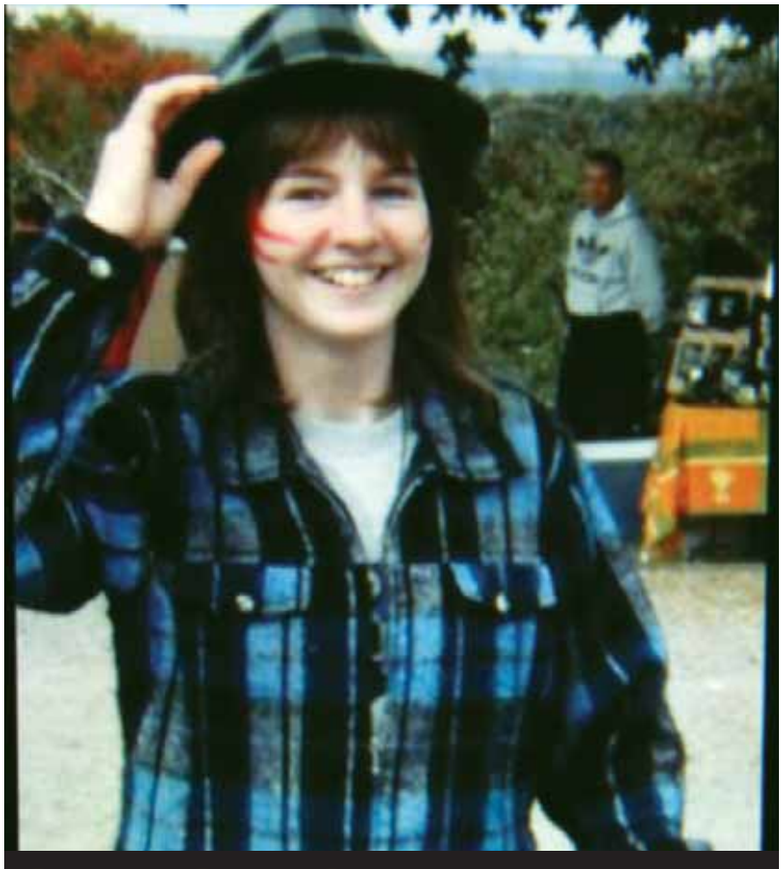

SEARCH FOR HER KILLER

A year after the grisly discovery of Valérie Leblanc's body behind the CEGEP de l'Outaouais in Hull, her family is still searching for answers and justice. Story, page 4. SCREENSHOT

PRESTO fare card 'getting there': Union

Software issues. Kinks finally being ironed out of beleaguered high-tech bus-fare system

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

It isn't problem-free, but the PRESTO fare-card system seems to be free of the "global" software glitches that caused a lengthy delay in the rollout, the bus drivers' union says.

"My understanding is that the actual machines are starting to work. It is improving," said ATU 279 president Craig Watson.

"They're able to analyze the problems as they come up quicker, and they're able to deal with them."

An update on the PRESTO system is scheduled for Friday's Transit Commission meeting.

In the meantime, Watson said his members continue to use the PRESTO systems on board buses as part of a "friends and family trial."

The drivers report the machines are working much better than they were two months ago and memos from the city have also been positive, he said.

"I think they've solved what the basic software issues are," he said.

"It's changed from more of a global issue to individualized issues."

Watson said there are still problems and he expects the larger rollout of the system won't go completely smoothly, but his members are eager to see it working.

"I don't think that it's there yet, but it's getting there," he said.

Digging up the original Ottawa

LeBreton Flats dig uncovers some 47,000 artifacts that tell the story of Ottawa's earliest settlers, but there's nowhere to showcase them PAGE 6

Body-parts victim ID'd

Body parts found scattered in Toronto-area waterways belonged to a 41-year-old single mother of three, according to police PAGE 8

Travel in all shapes, sizes

Whether armed with an itinerary, a money belt or a backpack filled with nothing but a toothbrush, we all have a travel personality PAGE 19

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Investigation

Stabbing victim in critical condition

An Ottawa man was sent to hospital with life-threatening injuries after being stabbed on Tuesday.

Police responded to a call just after 12:30 p.m. on Van Lang Private in Westboro where they found a man in his 30s with several stab wounds to his neck and face. The victim remains in critical condition.

Police are investigating the scene near Scott Street and Churchill Avenue. METRO

Police investigate the scene of a stabbing in Westboro. METRO

Crime

Rental car fraud may go further: Cops

A man accused of conning acquaintances and strangers out of more than $10,000 by encouraging them to rent cars for him that he would in turn steal, may have more victims, police say.

Richard Lee Maracle, 41, of no fixed address, faces four counts of fraud and one of theft of a motor vehicle after being arrested three weeks ago.

Beginning in March, police allege, Maracle, who also used the name Richard Driedeger/Driedger, befriended his victims and tricked them into renting cars for him.

Police want anyone with information to contact Det. Martin Cardinal at 613-236-1222, ext. 5781. METRO

Provincial Conservative Leader Tim Hudak has adopted a tough stance on legislating teacher contracts. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath accuses the Liberals of using the issue to win two upcoming byelections. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Liberals' move to ban teacher strikes, freeze wages divides opposition

Two views. PCs want bill to be tough; NDP wants government to let boards and unions negotiate

JESSICA SMITH
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Ontario's opposition parties are sharply divided on a bill that could freeze teachers' wages, but the Liberals' tough stance may have found some support from the Tories.

In Ottawa on Tuesday to speak at a conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said he's going to make sure the Liberals' draft of the Putting Students First Act is strong enough to rein in spending on teacher contracts.

The act would prohibit teacher strikes and lockouts for two years and allow the government to dictate parameters, including a wage freeze, for teacher contract negotiations. Premier Dalton McGuinty said the legislation aims to save $2 billion over two years by preventing the previous contracts from rolling over as of Aug. 31.

Hudak said he wants to make sure the bill prevents work stoppages and contains "a wage-freeze element." He would prefer an "across-the-board wage freeze," with "no loopholes," that would apply to all public-sector employees.

"I want to make sure that it actually has teeth," he said.

About an hour later at the same conference, New Democratic Party Leader Andrea Horwath said teachers' unions should negotiate their contracts without interference from the legislature.

Horwath said she thinks the bill would not survive a court challenge, because it infringes on collective-bargaining rights.

"I think it needs to be renamed the Putting Liberals First Act, because that's what it's all about," she said. "This is more about seats in the legislature than it is about kids in the classroom."

Byelections are coming in Kitchener-Waterloo and Vaughan, and if the Liberals win both they will regain a majority. Horwath said the Liberals' strategy is to "scare" Ontarians into thinking a majority is necessary to ensure labour peace in the province.

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Mobile news

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‘Somebody has to know something’: Valérie’s family pleads for answers

Grim anniversary. A year has passed since Valérie Leblanc’s murder, but her father and grandmother are still no closer to finding out who the killer is

JESSICA BEDDAOUI
ottawa@metronews.ca

Every morning, Sylvain Leblanc sheds a few tears before getting out of bed, thinking about his daughter Valérie, who was murdered a year ago.

“When they told me … that she was found dead, I couldn’t take it,” Sylvain said in French. “I felt irresponsible, not right, like I didn’t do my job to protect her as a parent.”

Valérie’s body was found beaten and burned near a trail in the woods behind the CEGEP de l’Outaouais in Hull. An autopsy revealed that the 18-year-old college student died from severe head trauma.

“I don’t think that in her mind she ever thought that someone could hurt her because she would never hurt anybody,” said Huguette Leblanc, Valérie’s grandmother.

The brutality of the crime, the lack of witnesses, and the fact that no charges have been laid in connection with the murder have left Valérie’s family searching for answers.

“Somebody has to know something,” said Huguette. “If they would tell what they know, it would do them good. It must be heavy on their shoulders. They don’t have to be worried about talking to the police, about using their name, or even going to court. It can be anonymous, that’s a guarantee.”

In October 2011, Gatineau police gathered tips from more than 500 people and created a composite sketch of a “key witness” in their investigation.

The man being sought was described as French-speaking, weighing 200 pounds and walking with a limp. The “key witness” hasn’t been found.

To mark the one-year anniversary of Valérie’s murder, Huguette and Sylvain will go to the spot where her body was found and create a permanent memorial site.

“We’re going to put a cross and a plate with a picture of her on it,” said Huguette. She hopes that friends and family will also share stories about her late granddaughter. “I would like to listen to what they have to say, what she has left in their life.”

“That’s all we have left,” added Sylvain.

Timeline of events

- **Aug. 23, 2011:** Valérie Leblanc’s body is found in the woods behind the CEGEP de l’Outaouais in Hull. Police determine that after the initial attack that killed Valérie, four students came across the murder scene and defiled her body. No charges are laid.
- **Aug. 31, 2011:** Hundreds gather at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hull for Valérie’s funeral. The slain teen loved to wear fedoras, so many guests wear them in her honour.
- **Oct. 13, 2011:** Valérie’s mother, Julie Charron, speaks at a press conference where Gatineau police release a witness sketch and offer a $10,000 reward.
- **Nov. 29, 2011:** Gatineau police go door to door in the Mont-Bleu district of Hull with a questionnaire they hope will jog people’s memories and help them solve the murder.
- **April 12, 2012:** Gatineau police extend a $10,000 reward in the case.

Valérie Leblanc’s father, Sylvain, and her grandmother, Huguette, hold a portrait of the teen, who was murdered one year ago. On Thursday they will create a permanent memorial at the site where Valérie’s body was found. JESSICA BEDDAOUI/FOR METRO

Quoted

“If (people) would tell what they know, it would do them good. It must be heavy on their shoulders. They don’t have to be worried about talking to the police, about using their name, or even going to court.” Huguette Leblanc, Valérie’s grandmother

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LeBreton Flats dig unearths items fit for a museum

Artifacts. Rare for downtown location, site opens window on lives of Ottawa's earliest settlers

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Archaeologists displayed some of the 47,000 artifacts, including a sword and chamber pot, that were found at a LeBreton Flats dig ahead of the Light Rail project, leading some to call for a museum to house them.

"We have to find a place to talk about the bigger history of Ottawa," said Ken Clavette, former chair of the heritage advisory committee. "We have the Cumberland museum, the Bytown Museum and Billings Estate Museum, but who is telling the larger story of Ottawa?"

Clavette said there are thousands of artifacts in storage from National Capital Commission digs that broke ground for the war museum. He said he would like to see them get a home, and suggested an interpretive centre on the LeBreton Flats site would also go a long way toward explaining the history of the area.

Archeologists began the dig in May and continued unearthing items until July, when the project wrapped up, said Brandy Lockhart, lead resident archeologist of Golder Associates Ltd., which carried out the dig. The most interesting object was a British cavalry sword, dating from between 1796 and 1820, discovered under the floor of a shed in the backyard of a home that stood on Albert Street, Lockhart said.

Digs took place on the site of the West End Hotel, which was built in the late 1800s, the Western Methodist Church built in 1873, and two private homes.

Most of the recovered items showed what domestic life was like at the time. "We found mostly ceramics. It shows the tastes of the time," Lockhart said. "They didn't have garbage disposal. So these items remained."

Brandy Lockhart, lead resident archeologist of Golder Associates Ltd., which carried out the three-month dig at LeBreton Flats, poses with ceramic dishes found at the site. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Funhaven throws gamer charity slumber party

Local "Redditors" Andrew Sarofeim, left, and Stephane Doucette-Poirier take a spin in some bumper cars. JOE LOFARO/METRO

If you've ever wanted to stay up really late and play games inside a giant fort made out of blankets and pillows, with nearby rock climbing and bumper cars at your disposal, now is your chance.

Funhaven, a 40,000-square-foot all-ages entertainment facility on Baxter Road in west Ottawa, is throwing an overnight gaming slumber party Saturday night and letting guests go wild in their pyjamas from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. the next morning.

But it's not all fun and games. Proceeds from a $10 entrance fee will go to the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa.

"They help a lot of youth that are low-income or homeless, so it's kind of a perfect fit to have a fort party and give back to the Youth Services Bureau," said Danielle Vicha, events manager at Funhaven.

Vicha said the idea was that of Dave Ellis, the facility's executive director.

Two weeks ago, he solicited feedback on how local users of Reddit, an online forum, would like to take advantage of his facility's open space. More than 100 comments came in, and eventually Ellis chose the blanket-fort idea.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Deets

Participants bring their own blankets and pillows, but it's not really a sleepover, more like an all-night party.

- $10 entrance fee includes unlimited laser tag and free popcorn.
- The event is for people aged 16 and over.

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Jack's message of hope

"Let us be loving ..." This monument to beloved former NDP leader Jack Layton was unveiled in a Toronto cemetery on Tuesday. Layton's ashes will be spread at a private ceremony today, marking the one-year anniversary of his death. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grisly homicide victim identified by police

Body parts found in waterways. 'Nice and quiet' Guang Hua Liu was a single mother of three and owned holistic spa in Toronto

Horrific crime: A police officer holds a photo of Guang Hua Liu.
MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Body parts found scattered in Toronto-area waterways belonged to a single mother of three, police say.

Guang Hua Liu, 41, was last seen by friends late in the afternoon on Aug. 10 as they dropped her off at her recently defunct spa in east Toronto, Peel Regional Police said at a news conference.

Friends reported her missing the next day, and on Aug. 15 her right foot was found in the Credit River in Mississauga, about 45 kilometres west of where she lived in east-end Toronto.

Liu's head and hands were later discovered in the river in the Hewick Meadows Park area.

Over the weekend, two calves, a thigh and an arm were found in West Highland Creek in east-end Toronto.

Forensic tests have determined all of those remains belonged to Liu, but police still do not know how she died.

She had three children — one is an adult and the other two live with their father, said Insp. George Koekkoek.

Investigators are treating the case as homicide, and while they are not yet speaking about suspects, they say they don't believe there are other victims.

"We're satisfied to this stage that there's no threat or danger to the public safety," Koekkoek said.

"If we have information to the contrary, we'll be the first to advise."

Police investigators have executed several search warrants, but none of the intensive searches turned up any more body parts, Koekkoek said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Forget Me Not

Liu was the owner of a "holistic therapy" spa called Forget Me Not, said a woman with a Toronto firm that rented the space.

- **Monthly lease.** Liu signed a month-by-month agreement, the woman said, adding, "She was very nice and quiet."
- **Citizen.** Liu was a Canadian, police said.

Complaints aplenty

Election scandal may be widening

Complaints about fraudulent or misleading telephone calls in last year's federal election have almost doubled, say court documents filed by election officials.

By mid-August, Elections Canada had received 1,394 complaints "alleging specific occurrences" in 234 of 308 federal ridings, a lawyer says. The investigation has centred on Guelph, Ont., where residents say they received automated phone calls directing them to a wrong polling station.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$60,000 tab

Toronto mayor insists: No driver

Toronto's mayor, who raised eyebrows when he was spotted reading behind the wheel, says he won't be getting a personal driver.

The expense of a chauffeur would be a "waste of taxpayers' money," Rob Ford told reporters.

He said a private driver would add up to $60,000 to the municipal tab.

Ford has said he uses his morning commute to keep pace with his busy work schedule. He has also come under fire for using his cellphone while driving.

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Delaware. Daycare workers allegedly formed toddler fightclub

A child-care centre in Delaware has had its business licence suspended after police arrested three employees who allegedly encouraged toddlers to fight.

The arrests were made Monday after police discovered a cellphone video of three women working at the Hands of Our Future daycare in Dover, the state capital, allegedly encouraging two three-year-olds to duke it out.

"He's pinching me," yells one child in the video.

"No pinching, only punching," is a worker's response, according to the Dover Police.

"It was a difficult video to watch," Dover Police Capt. Tim Stump told FoxNews.com. "One of the kids involved ran over to one of the adults for protection, but she turned him around back into the fight."

Tiana Harris, 21, Estefania Myers, 21 and Lisa Parker, 47, have been charged with multiple counts of assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

"I know these teachers. I go on all the field trips. I've never seen anything irregular," said Amy Bickerling, whose four-year-old son is enrolled at the centre, to Delawareonline.com. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4th record attempt

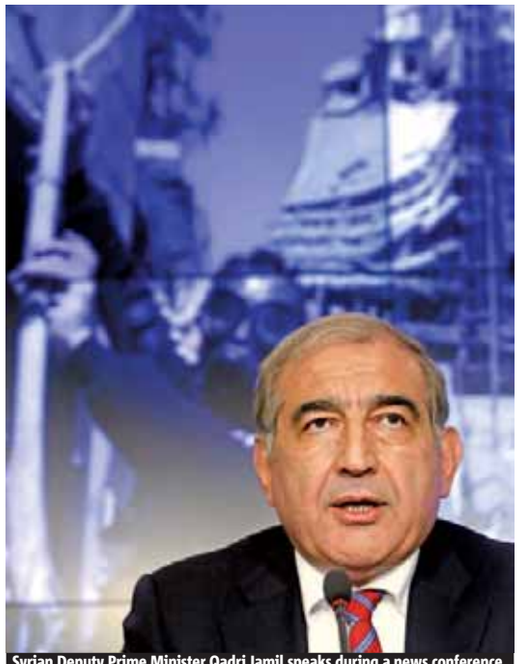
Swim across Florida Straits cut short

Diana Nyad THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diana Nyad ended her fourth attempt in nearly 35 years to swim across the Straits of Florida on Tuesday, her dream of setting a record thwarted by storms, jellyfish stings, shark threats, hypothermia and swollen lips.

Nyad, who turns 63 on Wednesday, was attempting to become the first person to cross the Florida Straits without a shark cage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian minister warns against U.S. intervention



Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil speaks during a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war. Qadri Jamil called Obama's warning over use of chemical weapons 'propagandistic threats'

President Barack Obama's warning over chemical weapons in Syria indicates the West is looking for a pretext for military intervention, a senior Syrian government official said Tuesday following talks in Moscow.

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil warned against any such intervention.

"Those who are contemplating this evidently want to see the crisis expand beyond Syria's borders," he told journalists in comments translated into Russian. The Syrian civil war, which began with a popular uprising in March 2011, is already spilling into neighbouring Lebanon.

Obama said Monday the U.S. would reconsider its opposition to military involvement in Syria if President Bashar Assad's regime deployed or used chemical or biological weapons.

Jamil described Obama's statements as "propagandistic threats" connected with the U.S. presidential election. However, he also said they indicate that "the West is looking for a pretext to intervene militarily," adding, "we must say that such intervention is impossible."

Russia, which along with China has steadfastly backed Syria and blocked UN sanctions on Assad's regime, earlier warned Syria against using chemical and biological weapons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Negotiations

Jamil said the government would be willing to discuss Assad's resignation but only after the opposition agreed to join in negotiating a peaceful settlement.

- "Making his resignation a condition for dialogue effectively makes holding such a dialogue impossible," Jamil said. "During the negotiating process any issues can be discussed, and we are ready to discuss even this issue."

Politico censured over rape remark in defence of Assange

Britain. WikiLeaks founder was accused of sex offences during a trip to Sweden in 2010

A British lawmaker was chastised by the leader of his own political party Tuesday over his claim that the sex acts WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is alleged to have committed do not constitute rape.

George Galloway, a leftist political outsider who represents the anti-war Respect party, attempted to defend Assange in a video blog posted Sunday, saying that accusations against him showed "bad sexual etiquette, but whatever else it is, it is not rape."

Assange has fought for two years to avoid extradition to Sweden to be questioned over allegations of sexual molestation, unlawful coercion and rape made by two women. For the last two months, he has been hiding out in Ecuador's Embassy in London, where he is out of reach of British authorities.

A placard of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is seen outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on Tuesday. ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Even taken at its worst, if the allegations made by these two women were true, 100 per cent true, and even if a camera in the room captured them, they don't constitute rape. At least not rape as anyone with any sense can possibly recognize it," Galloway said in the video. "It might be really sordid and bad sexual etiquette, but whatever else it is, it is not rape or you bankrupt the term rape of all meaning."

Salma Yaqoob, leader of the Respect Party, said Galloway's remarks on "what constitutes rape are deeply disappointing and wrong."

One woman accuses Assange of intentionally damaging a condom during sex. A second woman claims he had sex with her while she was asleep, which can be considered rape under Swedish law.

In a statement Tuesday, Galloway defended his remarks and insisted that Assange's actions would not constitute rape in Britain. However, British courts have rejected that claim in Assange's appeal hearings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Siberia

Woman accused of murder by bra

Russian investigators say a woman in East Siberia has strangled an elderly neighbour to death with her bra.

Investigators say the woman, 26, from the town of Zakamensk, was drunk in July when she and her boyfriend called on their neighbour, 65, for money to buy drinks. Angry that he refused to lend them money, the woman took off her bra and strangled him with it, they say.

The woman's name was not released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anonymous

Pro-Pussy Riot hackers attack court website

Hackers have attacked the website of a Moscow court where three members of the Pussy Riot punk band were tried and sentenced to two years in jail.

The Russian offshoot of the loose-knit movement known as Anonymous tweeted that the website of the Khamovniki district court was down Tuesday.

According to search engines' cached pages, the hackers posted Pussy Riot's latest song ridiculing President Vladimir Putin on the site. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rabbi wades into debate

Yona Metzger, Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel, briefs the media at the Federal Press Conference organization in Berlin on Tuesday. Metzger is in Germany for talks aimed at smoothing over controversy over the legality of circumcising young boys. German lawmakers have called for the government to draft a law this fall explicitly permitting "medically correct circumcision." That call came after a Cologne court concluded in June that circumcision amounts to bodily harm. MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Akin renews vow to stay in race amid rape controversy

A defiant Todd Akin dismissed pleas from top Republicans to abandon his besieged U.S. Senate campaign Tuesday, saying party leaders including presumptive presidential nominee Mitt Romney were overreacting to his comments that women's bodies can prevent pregnancies in cases of "legitimate rape."

Akin, who has been frantically trying to salvage his once-promising bid against incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill in Missouri, said the uproar surrounding the remarks was out of proportion with his mistake — misspeaking "one word in one sentence on one day."

"I hadn't done anything morally or ethically wrong, as sometimes people in politics do," Akin said on a radio show Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stock. Facebook closes lower, erasing Monday's gains after Thiel sale

Facebook's battered stock closed lower Tuesday, erasing some of the gains it saw a day earlier.

Regulatory filings revealed Monday after the stock market closed that Peter Thiel, Facebook's first big investor, shed most of his holdings in the social networking icon.

Thiel is also a board member.

Thiel originally invested $500,000 in Facebook in 2004. He sold 16.8 million shares in the company's May 18 IPO and another 20 million or so late last week after a lockup period expired. In all, he's reaped more than $1 billion from the sales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PayPal founder and Facebook investor Peter Thiel. GETTY IMAGES

Deal. Soros takes stake in soccer club Man United

Billionaire financier George Soros is getting in on the game, taking a minority stake in soccer club Manchester United.

Soros disclosed in a regulatory filing on Monday that he owns 7.85 per cent of Manchester United's Class A shares. The filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission was made by Soros' hedge fund, Soros Fund Management LLC.

The 134-year-old English Premier League soccer club went public on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this month.

The American family that owns the team, the Glazers, have voting control over it through Class B shares that have 10 times the voting power of the stock sold to the public. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Management

RIM appoints new exec

Research In Motion has made another change in its leadership, appointing a new managing director of its U.K. & Ireland business as it readies the launch of the BlackBerry 10.

The company said Tuesday that Rob Orr would step into the key role starting Sept. 1. Orr has worked at RIM for more than six years, focused on global product management. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.04¢ US (-0.13¢)

TSX 12,116.92 (+40.89)

OIL $96.68 US (+71¢)

GOLD $1,642.90 US (+19.90)

Natural gas: $2.775 US (No change)
Dow Jones: 13,203.58 (-68.06)

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Mowing down the competition with robotics

Honda Motor Co.'s Asimo robot, which walks and talks, shows off the company's new Miimo lawn mower. Honda is releasing its first product for the home, a sensor-equipped lawn mower packed with its prized robotics technology. Miimo goes on sale next year, retailing for around $3,000 — but only in Europe. The machine, which looks a bit like iRobot's Roomba vacuum cleaner, continuously shaves about three millimetres off the grass, manoeuvring itself on sloped areas. HONDA MOTOR CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian nickel firm snagged in Cuban corruption probe

Mining. Government officials and workers from joint Cuban-Canadian venture convicted in contract-expansion case

A Cuban court has convicted a dozen people of corruption, including high-ranking government officials, an executive at a state-run nickel company and workers from a project operating under a Cuban-Canadian joint concern, official media announced Tuesday.

In a case involving a contract for the expansion of the Pedro Soto Alba nickel and cobalt processing plant at the Moa mine, the sentences range from four to 12 years, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported.

The court in the eastern province of Holguin took into account "the gravity of these acts and their harmful consequences in one of the strategic activities for the nation's economy, and the conduct of the accused, characterized by the loss of ethical values and deception," the bulletin read.

The announcement was the first official confirmation of a probe that since last year has been the source of rumour and private discussion by diplomats on the island, part of a crackdown on graft that has caught up several foreigners and sent a chill through the small foreign business community.

The Moa Joint Venture that controls the mining operation is operated in tandem by Cuba and Toronto-based mining company Sherritt International Corp.

Moa currently produces 37,000 tons of nickel and cobalt per year, according to Sherritt's website.

Nickel production is one of Cuba's main sources of foreign income, along with tourism. In April, a senior government official said the mineral accounted for 30 per cent of exports in 2011, which would put nickel revenues at $1.8 billion for the year based on recently released overall export figures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Valuable resource

$1.8B

Nickel revenues in Cuba are likely around $1.8 billion US for the year, based on recently released overall export figures.

Higher duty-free exemptions lure Canadian shoppers

Higher duty-free exemptions for cross-border shoppers helped attract Canadians stateside in record numbers in June, analysts and retail groups said Tuesday as Statistics Canada reported 1.9 million overnight trips to the U.S. that month.

Paul Ferley, an economist at RBC, said the new exemptions — which let those on an overnight trip to the U.S. declare $200 worth of purchased goods, up from $50 — combined with a strong Canadian dollar have upped the incentives to shop south of the border.

"There was concern with the higher exemptions that it could prompt increased shopping trips into the U.S.," said Ferley. "Certainly the recent data suggests that's what played out."

A Statistics Canada report released Tuesday says overnight trips to the U.S. rose 7.5 per cent in June compared to May, to 1.9 million. That's the highest level since 1972, when the agency began keeping records on such cross-border jaunts.

Most overnight travel was by car, with Canadians taking more than 1.2 million trips — a 10 per cent increase month over month.

Canadians on a jaunt to the U.S. for two and seven days are now allowed to declare $800 worth of goods, up from $400, while the limit for visits of more than a week increased to $800 from $750.

While StatsCan didn't specifically attribute the spike in visits to the new duty-free rules, the agency did note the two events coincided. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Enjoy this winning favourite road trip story and then get writing!

My favourite road trip was during one of the hottest summers in history. We piled into our little 1976 Mustang and after a few hours on the road we had to pull into a small town. The transmission was blown! I remember my Dad driving away backwards in the only gear that worked to find a service station. After an overnight stay, the car was fixed and we finally arrived at our destination. The timeshare is located on a golf course surrounded by majestic pine trees that were full of squirrels. Somehow, the thought of placing a trail of peanuts from the deck to the living room was the next best idea since sliced bread. It actually worked and one friendly squirrel didn't seem to mind until someone slammed the balcony door shut. One thing we observed years before that Sci-Fi movie came out, a living animal can run straight up a wall and as a family we can certainly scream and make a lot of commotion. Finally, it was safely whisked outside with a broom. After a fun week of swimming and squirrel wrangling, it was time to head back home. But the fun didn't end there, as we were driving back a sudden rain downpour blew something hard against our windshield and my Dad stopped to investigate. We didn't really know what happened until a few hours later when my Dad announced we were having duck for dinner. It was a road trip that I will never forget.

Our congratulations go to,

Edwin Sanchez
Calgary, AB

TWO TINY, BEAUTIFUL BOOKS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

Every once in a while, something wonderful this way comes.

In my case, that would be Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild, the New York Times bestseller that prompted Oprah to relaunch her book club.

Wild is a tour de force, a searing, soaring account of the author's 1,100-mile trek across the Pacific Crest Trail back in the '90s, when she was recovering from the death of her mother, a broken marriage and, oh, a heroin addiction.

If you have time left to add one to your summer reading list, I'd recommend Wild.

If Wild was the only reason to celebrate Cheryl Strayed's gifts as a writer, that would be enough. But there's more. She is also the heart, mind and soul behind Dear Sugar, the greatest advice column ever. Dear Sugar is a regular feature of therumpus.net, an online culture magazine. Strayed revealed that she was the writer behind Dear Sugar in February, and in July, Tiny Beautiful Things, a collection of her best advice, was published.

So far, it has spent its entire published existence on the New York Times bestseller list.

I'm recommending that you read Wild but I'm pleading with you to read Tiny Beautiful Things. It should be required reading for every struggling soul on the planet, and as far as I know, that's all of us.

Here's a sample. It's in response to an advice-seeker who is jealous of the success of fellow authors, especially those who score six-figure deals with their publishers. I can relate to that. Cheryl's diagnosis: "Could it be possible that the reason you feel like you swallowed a spoonful of battery acid every time someone gets what you want is because a long time ago — way back in your own very beginnings — you were sold a bill of goods about the relationship between money and success, fame and authenticity, legitimacy and adulation?"

Oh.

And here's her antidote: "But the people who don't give up … they've taken into their hearts the idea that there is enough for all of us, that success will manifest itself in different ways for different sorts of artists, that keeping the faith is more important than cashing the cheque, that being genuinely happy for someone else who got something you hope to get makes you genuinely happier too."

Wish I'd said that, especially the part about keeping the faith is more important than cashing the cheque.

But I'm not jealous, because Cheryl gives way more than she gets. And despite her (almost) overnight fame, she still turns up at readings for free and tutors aspiring writers, although, now that Reese Witherspoon has optioned Wild for some fabulous amount, it will be interesting to see if she can keep her feet on the ground.

Of course, she's pre-grounded. Trekking 1,100 miles through the Sierra Mountains lugging a 60-pound pack and wearing shoes that are too tight will do that to you.

Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild, the New York Times bestseller.
JONI KABANA/SUBMITTED

Knitting is child's play

NETPLAYWORKS/MASAKI KOIZUMI/REX FEATURES

Playful performance

Kids' playground knitted by artist

This crochet playground at the Takino Suzuran Hillside National Park in Sapporo, Japan, is made from thousands of pieces of nylon, created by hand over several months with a ton of yarn.

This is the brainchild of Japanese-born Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam and her Canadian husband, Charles MacAdam.

METRO

Artist's view

"We love how popular the playgrounds are. Sports are good for some people, but not every child. They should use their bodies and have fun."

Japanese-born artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam

Origins of artwork

Kids climb, play and make art their own

After teaching textiles in the U.S. in the 1960s, Toshiko began exhibiting crochet art for museums. But when two children started playing on one of her pieces at a gallery in Japan, blissfully unaware of artwork etiquette, she watched nervously as they climbed into the structure, but was thrilled to find that her work suddenly came alive in ways she had never really anticipated. METRO

Guerrilla knit-wear

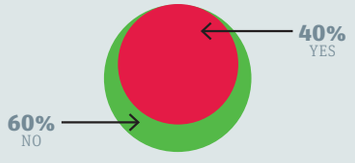
Today, crochet art goes like a bomb

Yarnbombing — covering objects in public spaces with knitted, crocheted material — has surged as a form of counter-culture art in recent years. Guerrilla artists worldwide boldly adorn famous urban structures and monuments with wool and now have their own International Yarnbombing Day, celebrated in June. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Does a new study saying egg yolks are almost as artery-clogging as smoking deter you from eating them?



Twitter

@ODonnell_K:
Anyone spot a blue/silver Fuji hybrid with rack, bell, horn, front shocks and seat-post shock I'd love to get it back #ottbike #stolen #mad

@WalkerTRex:
Bahahahahahahahaha "Was I naked? I don't remember getting naked..."

@tashycam:
Love is all you need #feelgoodsong

@KennyB899:
If you ever get caught napping at work, slowly raise your head and say "In Jesus name Amen".

@DavePetro:
Ottawa has this certain vibe to it, having such a great afternoon walking around with Illy coffee, Seija & the dog :) #OCanada #love

@chasebelz:
The mayor of Ottawa just tweeted me.

metro

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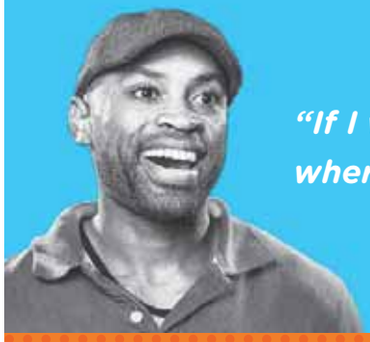

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SCENE 2

On the web

Taylor Swift to perform at VMAs, Fierce 5 U.S. Olympic gymnasts to present at awards show

Celebrity reading room

Oscar-winning thespian Emma Thompson has revived Beatrix Potter's mischievous bunny. The Further Tale of Peter Rabbit, published 110 years after Peter's first adventure, is out in September. Thompson is the latest in a lengthy line of stars who have hopped on the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed celeb children's lit bandwagon.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Jay Leno: If Roast Beef Could Fly

The comedian churns a childhood memory into a breezy bedtime yarn that may leave tots salivating in their sleep over a giant hunk of juicy rotisserie meat. Leno's father is ready for his next project — a new patio, so they can throw an epic barbecue. The titular event occurs when Jay, mesmerized by the tasty revolving beef, jabs his plastic comb into it in a clumsy attempt to sneak a sample of the meat before mealtime. Jay's plan backfires when his comb gets stuck and melts. Papa Leno is forced to chuck the spoiled roast beef out the window to the delight of the dog. **Flavour:** "My Dad's side of the family is Italian. Every Sunday we have 400 pounds of meatballs, half a ton of spaghetti, a swimming pool's worth of sauce!"

Jimmy Buffet and Savannah Buffet: The Jolly Mon

The Cheeseburger in Paradise crooner teamed up with his daughter on this laid-back escapist odyssey. Based on the beach balladeer's ditty Jolly Mon Sing, the dreadlock-rocking protagonist is a singing fisherman from the fictional Caribbean island of Bananaland. He finds an enchanted guitar floating in the bay that comes with instructions to play music around the world. Along the way the hero encounters a nefarious band of pirates led by One-Eyed Rosy and a groovy dolphin who saves his life. The father-daughter tandem also authored Trouble Dolls, another folklore-filled romp. **Flavour:** "The Jolly Mon had never played a guitar before, but the moment his fingers touched the strings, he knew how to play."

Julianne Moore: Freckleface Strawberry

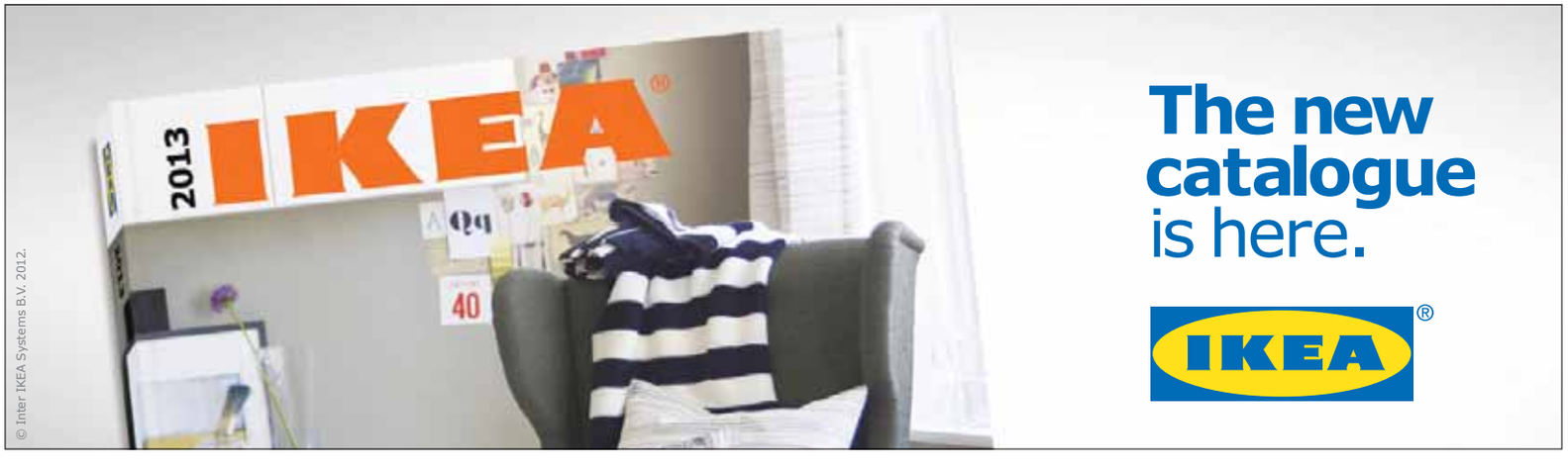
Teased for her dotted complexion, Freckleface Strawberry, a nickname the famous redhead herself was bullied with as a child, tries all sorts of ways to hide her freckles — from soap and makeup to more drastic measures. It's an inspiring modern take on The Ugly Duckling plotline, only instead of transforming into a swan, she learns to accept and love the skin she's in. Sequels Freckleface Strawberry and the Dodgeball Bully and Freckleface Strawberry: Best Friends Forever keep the life lessons flowing. The series was also adapted into a theatrical production, Freckleface the Musical. **Flavour:** "You have to meet the new girl. She wears a ski mask all the time."

Molly Shannon: Tilly the Trickster

The SNL alum's latest character is a squirrely little prankster, and everybody in her life, from family members and school chums to her teacher, are targets. Her sly antics continue unabated until the folks she plays tricks on the most often wise up and Tilly gets a taste of her own medicine. While filling cookies with toothpaste may not be as zany as Shannon's pratfalls as Mary Katherine Gallagher, four year olds seem to laugh just as hard. **Flavour:** "First, I grab a paper cup from the cupboard. Then I carefully poke a hole in the side of the cup with a pencil. If this ever-so-clever trick works, water will spill through the hole when Daddy tips the cup to take a drink."

Madonna: The English Roses

The first of Madge's kiddy tomes centres around a group of fashionable London schoolgirls who exclude a classmate from their sleepovers and other soirees — they are jealous of how pretty and perfect she seems. When a fairy Godmother gives the gals a glimpse into the ostracized girl's world they discover that her mother passed away and she does all the household chores. The Roses realize their folly and bring her into their circle of friends. Madonna's total transformation from material girl to moralizing momma is evident in her growing collection of lesson-laden storybooks. **Flavour:** "It all sounds so perfectly fun and nice. And in many ways, it was. But there was only one problem. They were all a little bit jealous of another girl in the neighbourhood."



Hollywood's unlikely go-to guy

Joseph Gordon-Levitt. This rising star has yet to settle into an easily defined persona

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Joseph Gordon-Levitt in Premium Rush. SUBMITTED

In Hollywood careers are built on images. While actors often complain about being pigeon-holed, for many being synonymous with a genre has been the cornerstone of their careers. Think Stallone, think action pictures. Drew Barrymore is joined at the hip to romantic comedies and the very sight of Jim Carrey causes laughter.

Then there's Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

He's quickly becoming one of Hollywood's go-to guys even though he has yet to settle into an easily defined persona.

He's been acting since age four, but the first time most of us saw him he was playing an ancient alien trapped in an adolescent's body on the sitcom Third Rock from the Sun. He left the show after six years and for a time made the kind of films you would expect a young sitcom star to make: 10 Things I Hate About You, a teen version of Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew and the animated Treasure Planet.

Then things got interesting.

After a short break from the screen to study at Columbia University he vowed to "only make good films." What followed is an eclectic IMDB listing that includes everything from low-budget movies like Manic, to indie comedy 500 Days of Summer, to his blockbuster work with Christopher Nolan in Inception and The Dark Knight Rises, and this weekend's thriller Premium Rush.

Here's a look back at some of the films that made the former sitcom star into one of the most in demand actors working today.

Made for just $500,000, Brick is a high school film noir featuring Gordon-Levitt as a teenager who investigates the disappearance of his girlfriend. The twist is, the dialogue — like "the ape blows or I clam" — sounds ripped from Dashiell Hammett's playbook. The actor will soon be seen in Brick director Rian Johnson's next film Looper.

In Mysterious Skin he wore blue contact lenses to play a child-abuse victim turned hustler. Roger Ebert wrote, "This is not an easy movie." And the Guardian called it a "disorienting hallucination of a film." But both praised his performance.

The Lookout sees him playing a man with a head injury: "The hardest thing I've ever done in my life," he said. While in Killshot, he's a wannabe assassin opposite Mickey Rourke.

It's these off-the-wall choices, mixed with more mainstream fare, that prompted the Philadelphia Inquirer to describe Gordon-Levitt as a "surprisingly formidable, and formidably surprising, leading man."

Fox returning to TV with comedy series

NBC has made it official: Michael J. Fox is coming back to series TV more than a decade after he left to concentrate on fighting Parkinson's disease.

His new comedy series, based loosely on his personal life, has a 22-episode commitment from NBC and is set to premiere in fall 2013, the network announced Monday.

The single-camera comedy, thus far untitled, will feature Fox as a husband and father of three from New York City who is dealing with family, career and challenges that include Parkinson's, the network said. No further casting was announced.

The executive producers and co-creators are Will Gluck (Easy A, Friends with Benefits) and Sam Laybourne (Cougar Town, Arrested Development), with Gluck producing through his Sony Television-based Olive Bridge Entertainment.

Fox first won stardom for his work as Alex Keaton on the hit comedy Family Ties, which began its seven-season run on NBC in 1982.

"To bring Michael J. Fox back to NBC is a supreme honour," said Robert Greenblatt, chairman of NBC Entertainment, "and we are thrilled that one of the great comedic television stars is coming home again."

Michael J. Fox. GETTY IMAGES

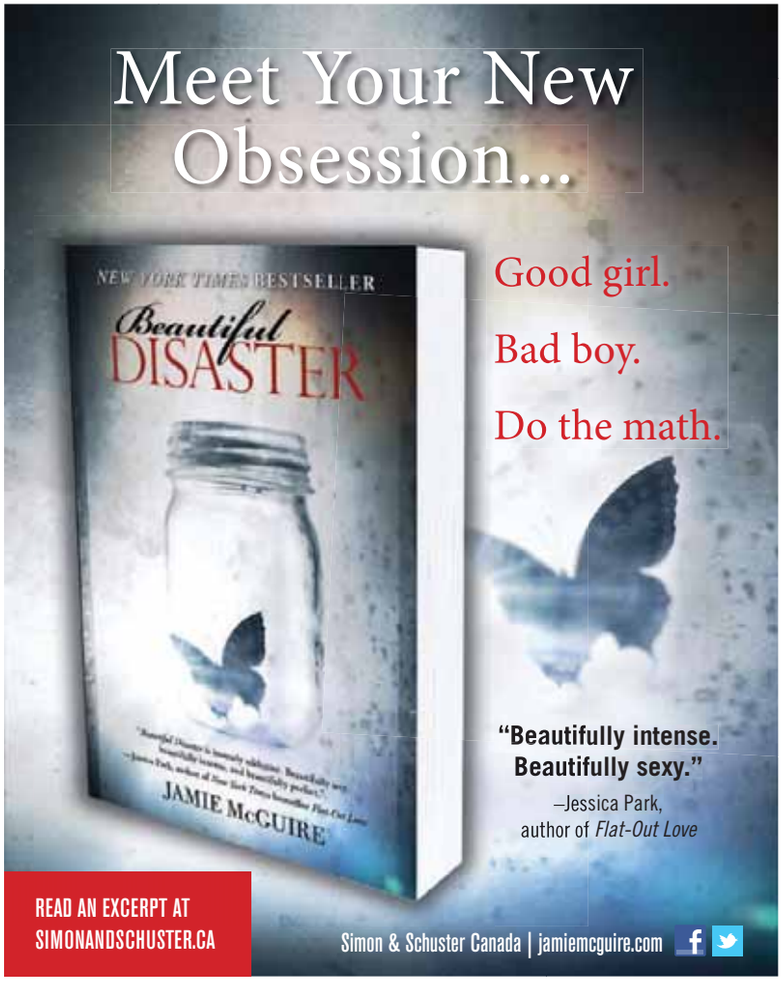
He called Fox "utterly relatable, optimistic and in a class by himself."

The 51-year-old actor was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991. In 2000, he left his ABC comedy Spin City after four seasons, saying he intended to focus on helping find a cure for the disease.

He founded the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which is dedicated to finding a cure for sufferers of Parkinson's disease while promoting the development of improved therapies and raising public awareness of the disease.

But in May, he told ABC News that a new drug regimen has helped him control the tics that are a result of the disease and could allow him to take on more acting roles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nicki Minaj

American Idol targeting new judges

Time is running out for American Idol to fill up the judges' table for its 12th season, and producers are reportedly circling a couple of options for new talent. According to the Associated Press, "a deal is in the works" for singer Nicki Minaj to come on-board, joining Mariah Carey, who was added to the lineup last month. And a source tells People magazine that Enrique Iglesias is also in talks to join the reality singing competition. "Idol has expressed a lot of interest, but no final word on either side yet," the source says.

Rumours of Tony Scott illness not true: Family

Tony Scott

It appears there's no truth to the reports that director Tony Scott had been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer before he decided to jump to his death from a bridge over Los Angeles Harbor Sunday. "According to family spokespersons, the information concerning brain cancer or an inoperable brain tumor in Mr. Scott is incorrect," a spokesman for the L.A. coroner's office tells People magazine. The initial report of a cancer diagnosis came from ABC News, citing an anonymous source.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Ryan Lochte to hand out roses?

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

With four years until he's due in Rio, Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte is scoping out a side job in reality TV.

At the top of the list is The Bachelor, whose producers have been informed that they'll need to come up with at least $750,000 for such high-quality abs.

But even if they pay, Lochte may pass.

"Ryan is acutely aware that he has to attach himself to the right projects and endorsements that won't do damage to his all-American image," a source tells RadarOnline.

"As much as he'd like to do it, Ryan does have some reservations about The Bachelor because he wouldn't have any control on how he is portrayed on the show."

Ryan, at this point there's nothing more American than compromising your reputation, marriage and career in the name of fleeting fame. Consider this our blessing.

Liberty Ross and Rupert Sanders

Liberty Ross spreads wings in blog post

Rupert Sanders' wife, Liberty Ross, is trying to send a message with her latest blog post for Vogue UK, but it's not entirely clear what that message is. Ross — who hasn't updated the blog since news broke of Sanders' affair with actress Kristen Stewart — published an image of an eagle with its wings spread under the title "Liberty," prompting many to speculate she's leaving Sanders. New York magazine insists the image "is meant to be a statement of freedom and independence," and commenters on Ross' blog seem to be taking it that way as well.

Twitter

@RedHourBen
Tony Scott made so many movies that influenced so many others. A genre to himself. A real loss. He entertained so many people.

@DebbieReynolds1
The world is a sadder place for all of us who love to laugh. I love Phyllis Diller. Comedy will never be the same and neither will I.

@JohnStamos
hate it when my stand-in is younger and better looking than me.

@Joan_Rivers
Hand specialists say one of the most common ailments they treat is "texting thumb." In showbiz it has to be "flipping-off middle finger."

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5 travel personalities

Planning a vacation is exciting, and made even more thrilling when you're going with someone special. Except it doesn't always work out perfectly. When it comes to packing and jumping on a plane, everyone has their own travel personality. Here's how to handle some of them.

MAE GIFFORD
life@metronews.ca

The over planner

You're in Paris and they're intent on touring the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower by noon on the first day. Keep up at this panicked rate and you're bound to see the entire City of Lights in record time, but won't remember any of it. Suggest one afternoon of people watching in a public square over a carafe of French wine. Their shoulders will drop in no time.

The obvious tourist

Money belt? Check. Canadian flag in plain sight so no one confuses you with an American? Check. Comfortable New Balance walking shoes and socks that reach mid-calf? Check. Canadian tourists stick out like sore thumbs and it's not just embarrassing, it can also put you at risk for pickpocketing or schemers. The simple rule is to dress on vacation like you normally would. But if your wardrobe includes any of the above items, you can't be helped.

The person who hates travelling

They haven't travelled in years but somehow you convinced them to come on your dream cruise. Big mistake. They hate sleeping in a strange bed, new scenery, food, water and boats. Instead of throwing them overboard, try to compromise on activities you'll both enjoy. Joining them in the casino for a few hours (gag!) may translate into you getting the most out of your trip with fewer complaints.

The embarrassing keener

Armed with their Lonely Planet guidebook, which they studied for months, this friend will regurgitate every iota of information they know at each attraction you visit. Even better, they're hell-bent on speaking the language, which typically includes them shout-sputtering random words at locals. Nip this annoying behaviour in the bud by suggesting they'll get much more out of the experience if they don't have their nose stuck in a book the entire time. If all else fails, accidentally "lose" it.

The under planner

They had no opinion on which country to see and now that you've landed, they're just along for the ride. Instead of getting frustrated at their lackadaisical attitude toward travel, embrace it! This is your opportunity to design the trip you've always wanted without any complaining. This type of personality can be convinced to do anything, so be as busy or relaxed as you like. The best part is that they're going to love the trip because they had no expectations.

3 LIFE

On the web

Fogo Island Inn and art gallery aim high with luxury rooms on the wild Atlantic.

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Venture into Alaska's wild, in style

Review. Cruise into the north; room service included

JULIA FURLAN
Metro World News

It's not often that you set down your fork to watch a whale arch out of the water at sunset. Unless you're on a cruise in Alaska, in which case the postcard-worthy moment is just part of the decor. There is a lot of wild and astounding beauty in Alaska — crystalline blue glaciers, snowy mountains skirted in lush greenery — and it's a lot easier to see it surrounded by the creature comforts of a cruise ship.

Ships like Royal Caribbean's newly renovated Rhapsody of the Seas have the kinds of amenities that can adapt to a wide array of travellers. Newly refurbished rooms mean that cabin time is truly relaxing (room service is no extra charge) — and for those who prefer to kick back with a cocktail, the retro-inspired R-bar makes first-rate mixology a priority.

Enjoy the view, bring a parka. THINKSTOCK

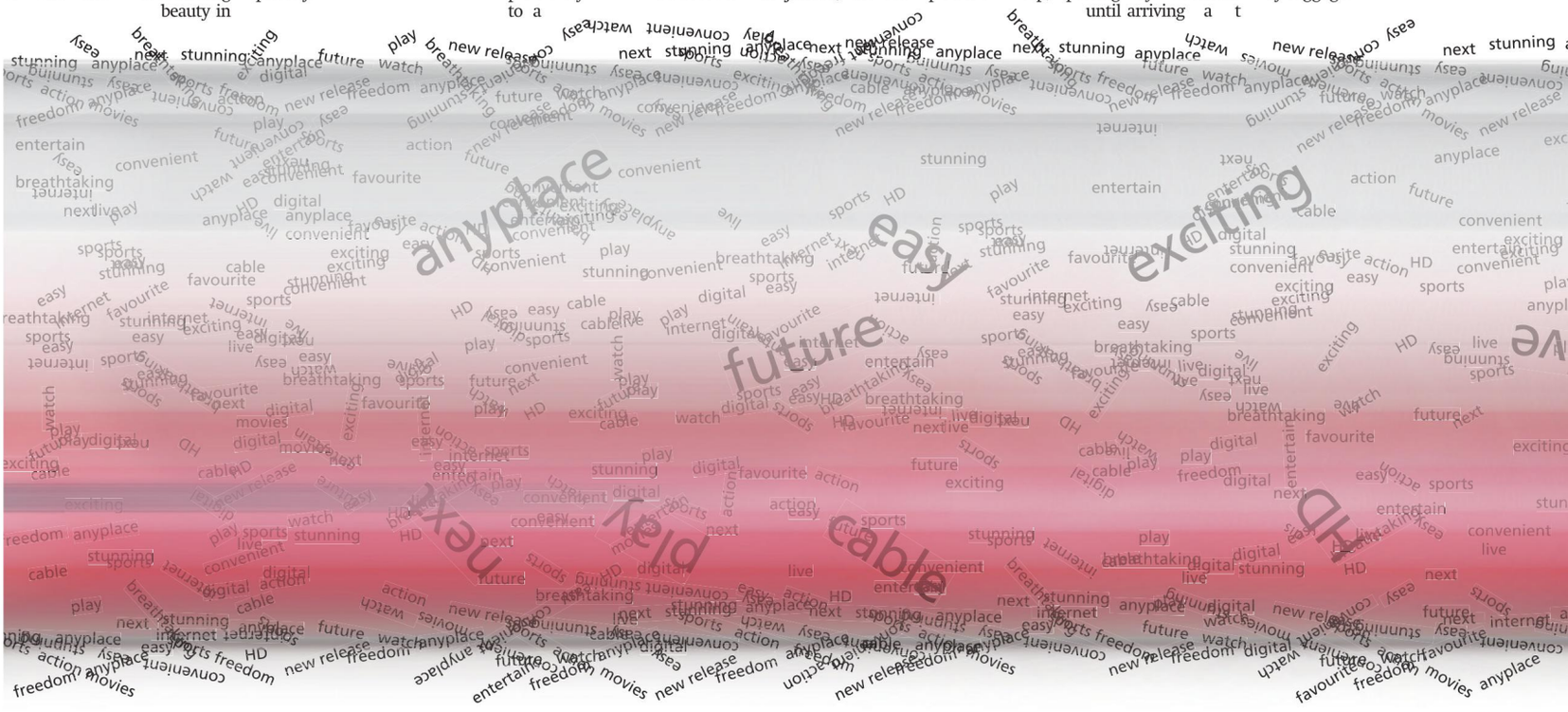
Day trips

Excursions can seem like a pricey addition to a cruise vacation, but they are the easiest way to fit a few more spectacular vistas into a trip. In Juneau, the seaplane trip to the Taku Lodge takes passengers over ice fields that are raked with pools of fluorescent blue ice. At the lodge, signs warn against bears who, like the humans, are drawn to the open-fire grills of fresh-caught Alaskan salmon.

Further north in Skagway, the town's few streets are set at the foot of mountains that catch the morning sunlight like the Paramount logo (minus the circle of stars). The steam railroad trips that spiral down the mountains have breathtaking views of the area's mountains that go from solid snow at the top, passing by waterfalls until arriving at the lush green that surrounds Skagway.

All-inclusive

Possibly the best thing about floating around a beautiful place on a ship is the versatility that's available for each traveller to choose his or her own trip. Families with small children can make use of day care to see sights while the tots are entertained. And travellers of all ages (and all skill levels) can access rugged Alaskan nature unburdened by luggage.



My favourite place in Canada.
Marilyn Denis returns to Lake Louise when she needs to reflect on life

I get the biggest rush out of driving from Calgary towards the Rocky Mountains.

My parents retired in Calgary and though they're no longer with us on the planet, my son lives there now.

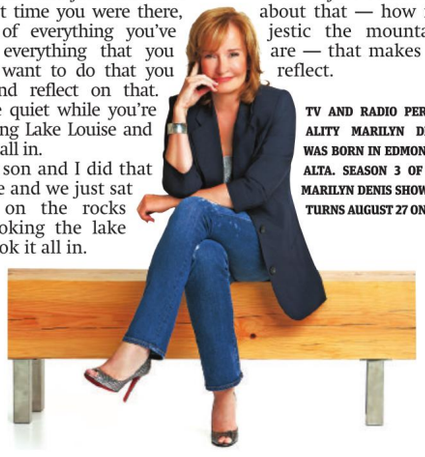
This past year when I went to visit him in Calgary, I said, "We have to go to the mountains."

We went to Banff for a couple of days and we took the scenic trip around Lake Louise.

There's just something about the mountains; they're always there, they never change, you get older, but they don't.

One of the things my dad told me a long time ago was to go to Lake Louise, stand in front of the lake and the beautiful mountains and just remember the last time you were there, think of everything you've done, everything that you didn't want to do that you did, and reflect on that. Just be quiet while you're watching Lake Louise and take it all in.

My son and I did that in June and we just sat there on the rocks overlooking the lake and took it all in.


TV AND RADIO PERSONALITY MARILYN DENIS, WAS BORN IN EDMONTON, ALTA. SEASON 3 OF THE MARILYN DENIS SHOW, RETURNS AUGUST 27 ON CTV.

There's just something about that — how majestic the mountains are — that makes me reflect.

Lake Louise's stunning views provide the perfect backdrop to contemplate the greater things. MARILYNJANE/FLICKR

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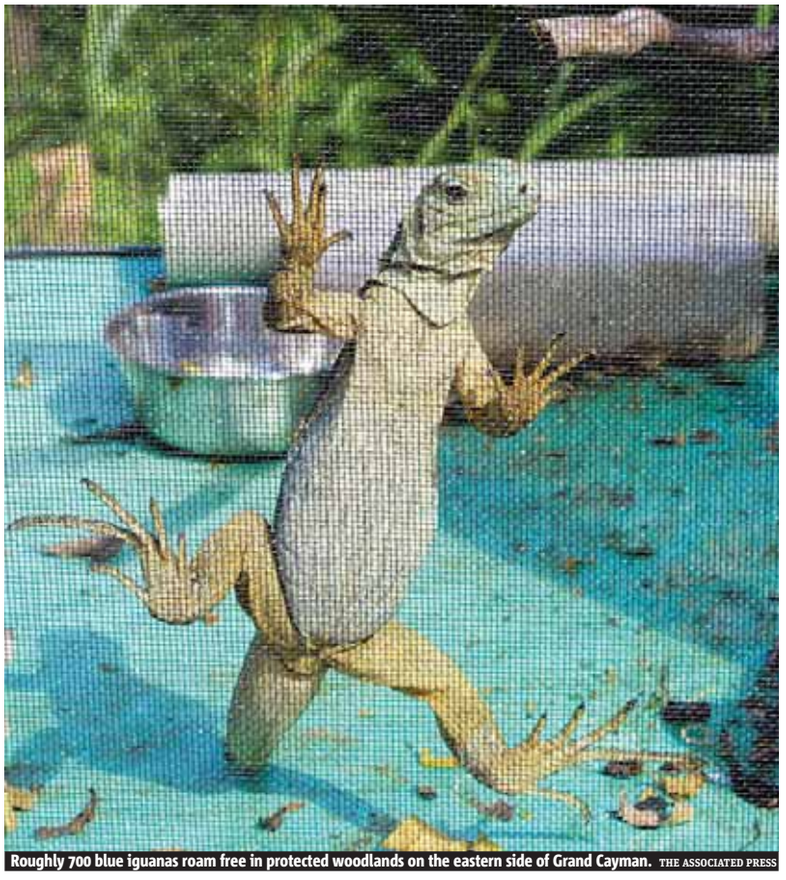

Roughly 700 blue iguanas roam free in protected woodlands on the eastern side of Grand Cayman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Day of the iguana: Reptile bounces back on Grand Cayman

Successful breeding program. Driven to near extinction by non-native predators, the blue iguana now runs free on eastern side of the island

The blue iguanas are only released once they reach two years of age. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The blue iguana has lived on the rocky shores of Grand Cayman for at least a couple of million years, preening like a miniature turquoise dragon as it soaked in the sun or sheltered inside crevices. Yet having survived everything from tropical hurricanes to ice ages, it was driven to near-extinction by dogs, cats and cars.

Now, though, a breeding program some see as a global model has worked better than any had hoped to dream for a species that numbered less than a dozen in the wild just a decade ago, preyed upon by escaped pets and struggling to survive in a habitat eroded by the advance of human settlement.

Roughly 700 blazing blue iguanas breed and roam free in protected woodlands on the eastern side of Grand Cayman, a 22-mile-long (35-kilometre-long) speck in the western Caribbean that is the only place where the critically endangered animals are found in the wild.

"The kind of results that we've gotten show that it's practical and realistic to say you can restore a population of iguanas from practically nothing, just so long as you can capture the genetic variety from the beginning," said Fred Burton, the unsalaried director of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program, a partnership linking the islands' National Trust to local and overseas agencies and groups.

In a corner of the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, the "founders," or genetically diverse, wild iguanas captured for the breeding program, mate when the mood strikes in 40-foot-wide pens featuring the rocks, shrubs and trees of their natural habitat. One couple, dubbed "Mad Max" and "Biter," are free to roam outside the pens, scampering after ripened noni, a pungent, potato-sized fruit.

On a recent day at the 65-acre garden and woodland preserve, the adult iguanas were shedding skin, which resembles thin, dry paper, revealing a brilliant turquoise underneath. The primarily herbivorous creatures, which have crimson eyes, grow to roughly five feet (1.5 metres) long, weigh over 25 pounds and are at their bluest when they get excited.

Near the breeding pens, wood-and-wire cages hold the founders' young descendants, which are outfitted with transponder tags embedded beneath their skin.

The iguanas are only released into the botanical park and the 625-acre (253-hectare) Salina Reserve after they reach two years of age and are big enough to defend themselves from rats, snakes and some feral cats.

Burton and others concluded in 2001 that young blue iguanas should be released into the wild next to rough-hewn wooden shelters with tight passageways that mimic the rock holes and tree cavities where they naturally shelter from predators.

The first year of that experiment, 100 per cent of the young survived.

"When we started, we didn't know anything, so for years we just let the iguanas loose and we'd never see half of them again. A year after we came up with this very low-tech method of anchoring iguanas to the park, we found all of them were still living," Burton said, adding that young iguanas soon outgrow the wooden shelters and hardwired behaviour kicks in, driving them to make homes without any assistance

Arthur C. Echternacht, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee, said the Grand Cayman program has succeeded by building

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Adult blue iguanas shed their skin, which resembles thin, dry paper, to reveal a brilliant turquoise underneath. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alpine sounds

Yodeling is good for the soul

In one part of Austria, the hills are again alive with a particular sound of music — yodeling. The Alpine country has inaugurated a new hiker's path where participants are invited to let loose with an occasional melodic mountain yell. Organizers say it's push-button easy: at rest stops along the way, hikers press a knob and hear a recorded yodel in two-part harmony. They can also listen to each part separately and decide which one to try. Local yodeler and hotel owner Christian Eder came up with the idea. He told state broadcaster ORF Monday that it is an attempt "to get people to loosen up a bit with a simple yodel."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Get a 'street view' of some ruins

Google is adding interactive images of dozens of pre-Hispanic ruins to the "Street View" feature on its Google Maps website. Google Mexico and Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History announced Thursday that 30 sites have been added to Street View, and dozens more will be coming online this year. The eventual goal is 90 sites. The feature allows users to click on map locations to obtain 360-degree, interactive images composed of millions of photos taken at street level by specially equipped vehicles. Google uses a special, three-wheeled bicycle to generate images of the Mexican sites, many of which don't have paved areas. The sites already online include Chichen Itza.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

unusually strong relationships with international scientists as well as support from local politicians and citizens.

He also credits the tenacity and organization of Burton, a soft-spoken man who has been a steward of the Cayman Islands' environment since he moved to the U.K. Caribbean territory in 1979.

"Although Fred can seem to be a rather low-key, unexcitable Brit, he is passionate about the iguanas, very persuasive, and incredibly persistent," Echternacht said in an email.

Early on, Burton sought and received the assistance of international conservation groups, zoos and businesses in the effort. Financing and expertise, including veterinary support from the organizations has furthered the program's success.

John Binns, of the Tucson, Arizona-based International Reptile Conservation Foundation, said the basic infrastructure and steady focus of the Blue Iguana Breeding Program is "really a model on how to correctly restore a species year after year."

When the program started in 1990, most Caymanians didn't even realize that the island was home to an imperiled reptile species.

Confusing matters, invasive green iguanas, escapees from the pet trade, are flourishing in Grand Cayman and can be seen across the island.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing for the breeding program. In May 2008, about a half-dozen blue iguanas were killed in their pens, prompting a police investigation that netted no suspects.

The iguanas were found stomped and gouged, and Burton said humans, possibly with a pet dog, were almost certainly behind the massacre.

Two females had been preparing to lay eggs to help the species repopulate.

Burton said it was an "acid reminder" that not everything could go the program's way, even while it enjoyed broad support among most Caymanians.

To protect the iguanas, the breeding pens are now ringed by a fence and barbed wire.

Other researchers have been able to breed captive blue iguanas far from their native environment, though they cannot match the success of the program at home.

The overseas program is partly a hedge to make sure the imperiled reptile's genetic footprint survives any calamity.

Nearly 50 adult and juvenile blue iguanas live in 14 U.S. zoos and aquariums, which are considered partners of the breeding program, according to Tandora Grant, of the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research.

Ten more hatchlings are due to be born soon, she said. In Europe, two blue iguanas live in the Prague zoo in the Czech Republic.

Nonetheless, the key to restoring the endangered species remains in its native habitat of Grand Cayman, where Burton hopes to have 1,000 blue iguanas living in the wild, perhaps as early as 2015.

"Once we hit 1,000 and we have a good genetic range out there we can just let the iguanas handle things themselves out in the wild without us messing around with all this complex genetic planning," Burton said at the park. Gesturing at the breeding pens, Burton said: "Soon this will all be redundant, and that will be a very exciting day."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Soon this will all be redundant, and that will be a very exciting day."

Fred Burton, director of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program, on meeting the goals of the breeding program and eventually leaving the iguanas to themselves.

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Tag! Parisian street artists are it

Graffiti. The city is known for its museums. Now the art has moved outside

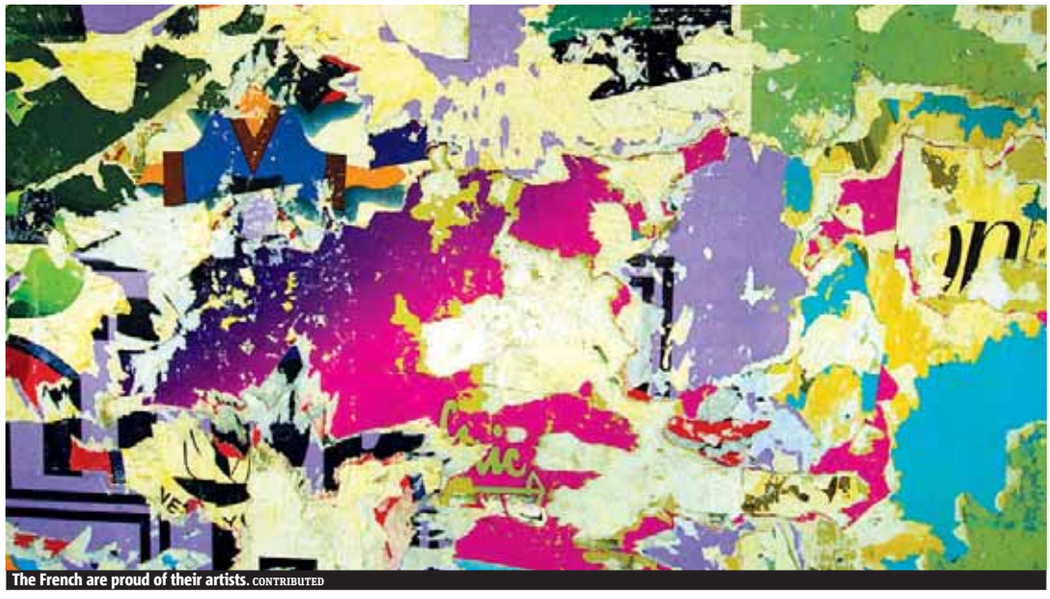
JANE BORDEN
life@metronews.ca

Paris has always been able to boast of an artistic supremacy, so it makes sense that when they even do something like street art, they put North America to shame. With its vibrancy, sophistication and sheer volume of production, the Parisian street art scene — graffiti, stenciling, paste-ups — makes ours look like it's still in grade school. Sketches and tags pop up throughout the city, yes, but beyond the central circle of neighbourhoods, or arrondissements, designated areas boast entire blocks coated end-to-end on both sides with imagery that's constantly changing.

Hami Delimi of L'Oeuf Creative — an agency helping artists with branding and representation — says that many communities agree not to prosecute, particularly their native sons and daughters.

"People are proud to have the artists there," Delimi says. "However, if someone not from the community writes over a piece, that person might get in trouble."

In the 19th arrondissement, which Delimi considers a first stronghold of the Parisian graffiti movement in the '80s, that local hero is Da Cruz. His big-featured faces and bold colours are calling cards on the area's buildings, municipal walls and mailboxes; no one paints over his creations. Other celebrated tags to locate across the city include Miss.tic, Nemo, Jerome Mesnager, Jeff Aerosol, Art of Popof and Atlas.



The French are proud of their artists. CONTRIBUTED

The Futura is now

Whether you think street artists working with luxury brands are receiving justified exposure and cash or are selling out, the practice is here to stay. And its most recent contributor is also one of the art form's truest legends: Futura.

Lenny McGurr, originally known as Futura 2000, began his career tagging New York City subway cars in the late '70s. He also toured with The Clash, painting onstage while they played; enjoyed a long history of success in art galleries, largely in Paris, which housed his first exhibit in 1982 (he's currently represented by Galerie Jerome de Noirmont); went on to make album covers, T-shirts and toys; and, of course, owns a spot in the canon. Then he was quiet for a while. But on Aug. 13 he added a Hennessy label to his collection. The limited-edition Cognac bottle is classic Futura: an abstract work of bold primary colors and atomic swirls.

"The movement I graduated from, what I call the subway school of art, is, for all intents and purposes, over," McGurr says. "But then the next generation of artists — Banksy, Shepard Fairey, Swoon — gave importance to this kind of work again. And that ultimately opened the door for me to return."

Meet the artists

Now in galleries

The scene has developed to the point where traditional galleries are also littered with street artists' work, one of the more recent crossover successes being an artist named Nasty. It's also now common for luxury brands to tap the graffiti scene. The artist named Kongo printed scarves for Hermès and Monsieur A created a label for Caviar Kaspia. But some artists seem to think it's a faux pas to use their talents for commerce. Kidult has notoriously vandalized luxury-brand storefronts.

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Tiger shrimp are quite affordable today compared to what they cost a few years ago. If you can't find them, you can use smaller shrimp. Using a spinach pesto is a good example of how you can use different ingredients to make variations on classic basil pesto. If you don't have fresh corn, sauté 2 cups canned or frozen corn until lightly charred.

1. Salad: Lightly coat cobs of corn with cooking spray and grill on barbecue 5 minutes or until charred, turning to avoid burning. Alternatively, bake corn in an oven preheated to 450 F for 5 minutes, also turning to prevent burning. Let corn cool slightly and cut kernels off cob with sharp knife. Place in a bowl along with red pepper, red onion, garlic, jalapeño, cider vinegar, olive oil, honey (if using), fresh basil, salt and pepper. Toss to combine.

Ingredients

- 1 lb large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup store-bought pesto

Salad

- 3 fresh cobs of corn
- 1/2 cup diced roasted red pepper (about 1 small roasted red pepper)
- 1/2 cup diced red onion
- 1 tsp chopped garlic
- 1 1/2 tsp chopped jalapeño pepper
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp honey (optional)
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- pinch of salt and pepper

2. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet or grill pan with cooking spray and set over medium high heat. Add shrimp and sauté until just pink, about 3 minutes.

3. Place the corn salad on a serving plate, top with shrimp and garnish with pesto.

ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Tiger Shrimp with Pesto and Grilled Corn Salad

This recipe serves four. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Coconut-Lemonade Slushies

Slushies are one of the tastiest ways to cool down during the summer. Here, the classic taste of lemonade meets the refreshing flavour of coconut.

- 3 cups lightly crushed ice
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sweetened cream of coconut
- 1/4 cup agave syrup or honey
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch salt

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Purée until smooth. You may need to stop the blender once or twice and stir the ingredients in order to keep them moving in the blender. Serve immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRES

Easy summertime steaming with Grilled Fiesta Shrimp

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When we think of steaming, we generally think stovetop cooking. And during the heat of summer, that can make this very healthy form of cooking seem very unappealing.

But the folks at Cooking Light magazine have come up with a simple way to enjoy a delicious steamed dinner without the fuss (or heat) of indoor cooking.

For this deliciously spicy shrimp, black bean and corn dish, they use the grill to get the job done. The results are quick and easy, and you don't need to heat up your kitchen.

The trick is using heavy duty foil to create a packet in which to cook the food on the grill. By crimping the edges of the packet, the liquid in the food stays inside, turning to steam and cooking the food quickly, while also keeping it moist.

And this same technique works on other seafood (scallops and haddock would be delicious), as well as chicken.

1. Heat grill to medium-high.

2. Arrange the shrimp in the centre of a large piece of heavy duty foil. Drizzle the oil over the shrimp, then sprinkle it with 1 teaspoon of the Creole seasoning. Toss to coat. Top the shrimp with the cheese, corn, cilantro and beans. Sprinkle the remaining teaspoon of Creole seasoning over everything. Fold the opposite ends of foil together over the ingredients to form a loose bundle. Crimp to seal.

3. Place the foil packet on the grill. Cover and cook for 10 minutes, or until the shrimp are done. Serve over hot cooked rice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ COOKING LIGHT WAY TO COOK: GRILLING, OXMOOR HOUSE, 2012

Ingredients

- 2 lbs raw peeled large shrimp
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp Creole seasoning, divided
- 1/2 cup (2 oz) shredded Mexican-blend cheese or cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup canned whole-kernel corn with sweet peppers, drained
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro
- 15-oz can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 4 cups cooked long-grain rice, hot

Crispy Garlic Shrimp Skewers. Easy entertaining

1. Heat oven to 475 F. Blend 3 tablespoons olive oil, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and garlic in small bowl. Add shrimp and toss to coat; set aside. Blend remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, dill, lemon peel and salt in bowl. Set aside.

2. Mix bread crumbs and cheese on waxed paper; dredge shrimp to coat evenly. Place in single layer on baking sheet. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until light golden and thoroughly cooked. Gently loosen shrimp from baking sheet. Cool 1 to 2 minutes.

3. Thread a single shrimp, olive, tomato and cucumber piece on each skewer. Serve immediately drizzled with olive oil mixture.

NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 6 tbsp extra virgin olive, divided
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 egg white
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 32 raw medium shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 1 tsp finely chopped fresh dill or parsley
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon peel
- Dash salt, optional
- 1/3 cup finely shredded Pecorino or Parmesan cheese
- 3/4 cup Panko bread crumbs
- 16 pitted large green olives
- 16 pitted large ripe olives
- 32 grape tomatoes
- 1/2 medium cucumber, sliced lengthwise and cut into 32 pieces
- 32 (4 to 6-inch) appetizer skewers

Nab some bucks between the books

Post-secondary profession. With these strategies, some gumption and a solid resumé, you can get started on your on-campus job search

CATHY KEATES
TalentEgg.ca

Most campuses have lots of student jobs available, but it isn't always easy figuring out how to find them.

While some jobs for the coming school year will have already been filled (some departments do their hiring in winter/spring of the previous year so that they are ready to go with new staff in September) there are usually still lots of jobs open in the fall.

In terms of where to look, most schools do not have one place where all the jobs are advertised.

So, it can take some legwork to look around to find what's available on your campus. And just like finding jobs anywhere, networking is key.

Here are some tips for helping you get job hunting on campus.

It's hard to believe, but not every opportunity can be found on the net. Look around and ask around you. ISTOCK

Visit your campus

career centre

The career centre should be stop number one if you are looking for work on campus. Staff at the career centre are usually very knowledgeable about on campus work, and getting their advice first can save you lots of time with their leads and direction.

Find out about work/study programs

Many schools have part-time jobs on campus that are specifically designated for students who are in financial need. These are often called work/study programs, but may have a different name at your campus. To learn more, and to find out whether you qualify ('financial need' can be defined differently at different schools), ask staff at your career centre and/or student financial services or loan office.

Speak with professors and your department

Often professors need help with their work. Sometimes they have enough money to hire students (other times they may use volunteers). Check with your departmental staff and faculty members if you are interested in getting research-related experience.

Twitter

@TalentEgg
What are your career planning tips for students returning to school this September?

@CGA_DoMore
Broaden your career hunt and research outside the box. You'd be surprised how your education can compliment your passions. #DOMORE

@katemackenzie
Know that 70% of employers do majority of recruiting in September! Don't miss out!

@desiraeo
don't stress when all of your accounting friends have contracts in October - small firms and other industries hire much later!

@asadh7866
if you're in a graduating position, don't forget recruiting season starts in Sept! Get those resumes and cover letters ready!

Visit on-campus vendors

The restaurants, pubs, shops, and other retail outlets on campus all need staff. You can visit them and see if they are hiring.

Keep your eyes and ears open

Watch notice boards, let all your friends know you are looking and ask them if they have any contacts or leads, make sure you read the emails you might get from your department or student clubs — you never know what might turn up a job lead. The more people you speak with, the greater your chances of finding something.

CATHY KEATES IS A CAREER COUNSELLOR AND TRAINER WHO HAS WORKED AS A CAREER COUNSELLOR AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND WAS THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE CAREER CENTRE AT YORK UNIVERSITY. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

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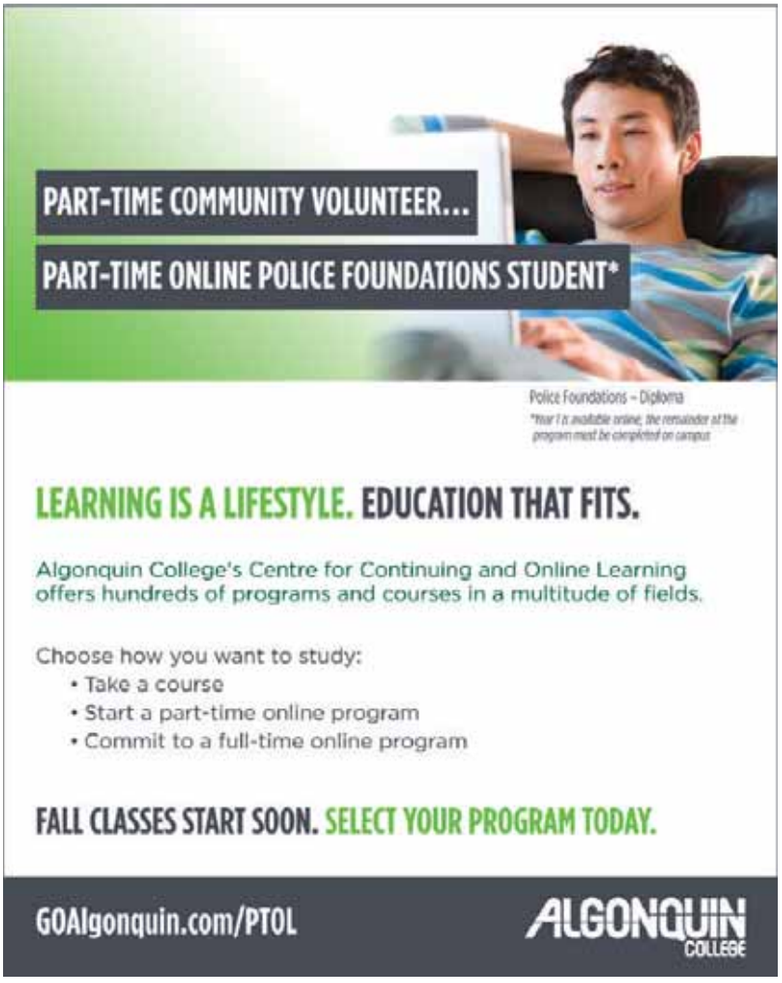
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Combine all corners of your life to create the best plan of pursuit. ISTOCK

Finding a career that you love is not a strait path from point A to point B. It is a process of assessment, exploration and pursuit.

Assess
In your first and second year, in particular, you should be focussing on discovering your interests, skills, values and personality.

Book an appointment with a career counsellor Ask about doing some personality and career assessments that will start to give you some ideas of career direction

Take a look at your aptitudes Consider your natural talents and things you are good at. We sometimes assume something that comes easily to us comes easily for everyone, but this is usually not the case. Ask friends and family who know you to suggest some areas they see you succeeding at or having natural abilities in.

Book an appointment with an academic counsellor
For those of you in your first year you are going to need to start thinking about degree options and what you want to major in. Get some help with this process. An academic counsellor can advise you of your options and guide you to resources that will aid in making the decision.

FLAP Formation linguistique axée sur les professions

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LE 11 SEPTEMBRE 14H00
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ymcaywca.ca

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region

the career next

Explore
At each stage of your degree you should be looking for opportunities to get involved and explore your interests and options, and build your resumé.

Get involved in campus clubs and organizations or volunteer in the community
This is a great way to meet new people and to build your hands-on experience. Taking on a leadership position with a club or volunteering with a not-for-profit agency can help you with your project or event management, leadership and interpersonal, communication and organizational skills, just to name a few. These experiences will help you to get an understanding of different types of work and what elements of it you enjoy.

Participate in career development workshops Every campus organizes dozens of workshops each year that can help you develop your resumé, cover letters, interview prep, networking strategies, etc. Check with your career centre for dates, times and locations.

Attend career fairs Regardless of whether you are at the point where you are looking for a job, attending a career fair will give you an idea of what companies are out there and who is hiring for what types of jobs.

Pursue
As you move closer to graduation it is time to start pursuing your goals.

Review, revise and tailor your resumé and cover letter The more time that you invest in preparing impressive documents and tailoring them to specific companies and jobs, the more likely you are to have success. Attend a drop-in session or set up a one-on-one appointment to review your resumé and cover letter.

Network, network, network. This is often the hardest task and yet is the most likely by far to result in you finding employment. Like dating, you need to just get out there and do it. Meet as many people as you can, be considerate, polite, and respectful and you are sure to see the results. Check out your career centre for workshops and resources on successful networking.

CLARE TATTERSALL IS THE MANAGER OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING AT HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY IN LONDON, ONT.

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SPORTS 4

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr speaks to reporters at the Delta Grand Hotel on Tuesday in Kelowna, B.C. GARY NYLANDER/THE CANADIAN PRESS/KELOWNA DAILY COURIER

Still looking for a 'jumping off point'

NHL. League, players' union to focus on core economic issues during this week's labour talks

Critical week

Talks are tentatively scheduled for the next two weeks in New York so there is plenty of room for continued dialogue if the parties can start getting on the same page in the coming days.

- The tone of this week's talks should offer a good indication of whether that will happen in time for a deal to be reached before Sept. 15.

Where do we go from here?

As the NHL and NHL Players' Association resume collective bargaining talks, that is the question they're both seeking to answer.

The sides stepped away from negotiations last week with competing bids on the table and no clear road ahead. They spoke again over the weekend and agreed to devote sessions Wednesday and Thursday entirely to core economic issues — the area where the parties seem to have the most ground to make up.

"We are hoping that our meetings this week can serve as a jumping off point for further discussion and negotiation over the critical economic and system issues that we need to resolve in order to reach an agreement," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Tuesday in an email.

Essentially, it's time to see how much each side is willing to move off its current position, if at all.

While a significant gap exists between the two proposals when it comes to the amount of money available to players, there is some common ground. The union's decision to keep a hard salary cap in place was an important step and its willingness to accept less than 57 per cent of revenues — for three years, anyway — seemed to indicate it was trying to work with the NHL.

"We thought it was a compromise," Donald Fehr, the NHLPA's executive director, told reporters last week.

Even though commissioner Gary Bettman offered a cold response to the union's offer it was a step in the right direction. Are the players willing to go even further? How far will the league move off its proposal, which called for new contract restrictions and player salaries based on 43 per cent of revenue?

The sides are operating in the shadow of a Sept. 15 deadline, when the current CBA is set to expire and the NHL has said players will be locked out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Injury bug nipping at Vick's heels

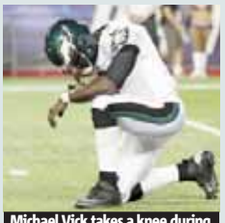
Michael Vick has required four medical tests and completed four passes in the Philadelphia Eagles' first two pre-season games.

That is an ominous sign for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Vick left Monday night's win at New England after injuring his ribs on his sixth play.

X-rays on Vick's ribs at the stadium were negative, and an MRI and CT scan on Tuesday revealed he has no broken bones or fractured cartilage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Michael Vick takes a knee during Monday's game. GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB

Jays' Lawrie back on shelf with abdominal pain

Toronto third baseman Brett Lawrie has stopped his rehab for a right oblique injury after feeling sore when he woke up on Tuesday.

Manager John Farrell said Lawrie, who has been on the disabled list since Aug. 4, isn't yet at a point where he might need to be shut down for the season.

Farrell also said right-hander Brandon Morrow, who hasn't pitched since June 11 because of a left oblique injury, likely will start Saturday at Baltimore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball. Clemens return stint already drawing interest from Astros

Roger Clemens thinks any talk about a return to the majors is premature.

The Houston Astros decided to check him out anyway.

General manager Jeff Luhnow said Tuesday the Astros sent a scout to look at Clemens and left-hander Scott Kazmir, who also plays for the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League. Clemens is to make his first start on Saturday at home against Bridgeport.

Luhnow said he wasn't sure whether Clemens was trying to make it back to the big leagues or just wanted to keep doing something he was very good at for a long time. Clemens earned about $160 million and won 354 games in a 24-year career with the Red Sox, Blue Jays, Yankees and Astros, but hasn't pitched since 2007.

Roger Clemens in Sugar Land, Texas, on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Players' union head expected to stay on job while dealing with brain tumour

Baseball players' union head Michael Weiner is undergoing treatment for a brain tumour.

He began treatment Monday, and the union said Tuesday that treatments are expected to last about one month. The union also anticipates he will continue to work from its New York office on a daily basis during the treatments.

Weiner, 50, succeeded Donald Fehr in 2009 to become just the fourth head of the union since 1966.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey. Ex-NHL bruiser Laraque named head of CHL players' union

Georges Laraque has been hired as executive director of the fledgling Canadian Hockey League Players' Association.

The former NHL tough guy announced on his Twitter account that he was "proud" to accept the role Tuesday.

Specific details about how the CHLPA — which would represent major junior players in Canada — will function have yet to be formally announced.

CHL president Dave Branch told The Canadian Press on Tuesday night that he had yet to be contacted by a union representative.

Laraque spent three years in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League before moving on to an NHL career that spanned 695 games and ended in 2010.

Georges Laraque
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile sports

The first African team to play in the Little League World Series will not head home empty handed. Ugandan team Lugazi eked out a 3-2 win over Gresham, Ore., in a consolation game on Tuesday to improve its series record to 1-2. Scan the code for the story.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	50	.590	—
Tampa Bay	68	54	.557	4
Baltimore	66	56	.541	6
Boston	59	63	.484	13
Toronto	**56**	**65**	**.463**	**15½**

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	66	55	.545	—
Detroit	64	57	.529	2
Kansas City	54	67	.446	12
Cleveland	54	68	.443	12½
Minnesota	51	70	.421	15

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	71	50	.587	—
Oakland	65	56	.537	6
Los Angeles	62	60	.508	9½
Seattle	59	64	.480	13

Tuesday's results
Toronto at Detroit
Kansas City at Tampa Bay
L.A. Angels at Boston
Baltimore at Texas
N.Y. Yankees at Chicago White Sox
Minnesota at Oakland
Cleveland at Seattle
Monday's results
Tampa Bay 5 Kansas City 1
Minnesota 7 Oakland 2
Chicago White Sox 9 N.Y. Yankees 6
Texas 5 Baltimore 1
Seattle 5 Cleveland 3
Wednesday's games
All times Eastern
Kansas City (Mendoza 7-8) at Tampa Bay (Shields 11-7), 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Hendriks 0-5) at Oakland (Milone 9-9), 3:35 p.m.
Cleveland (McAllister 5-4) at Seattle (Iwakuma 4-3), 3:40 p.m.
Toronto (Laffey 3-4) at Detroit (A.Sanchez 1-3), 7:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Weaver 15-3) at Boston (Buchholz 11-3), 7:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Tom.Hunter 4-7) at Texas (D.Holland 7-6), 8:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (P.Hughes 12-10) at Chicago White Sox (Sale 14-4), 8:10 p.m.
Thursday's games
Toronto at Detroit, 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

AL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
Trout LAA	99	400	96	137	.343
MiCabrera Det	121	475	82	157	.331
Jeter NYY	120	513	76	167	.326
Mauer Minn	112	418	67	134	.321
Revere Minn	84	354	47	112	.316
Ortiz Bos	89	320	65	101	.316
Konerko ChiW	105	393	51	123	.313
AJackson Det	99	391	76	121	.309
Fielder Det	121	440	66	136	.309
AdGonzalez Bos	120	469	63	144	.307

Runs — Trout, LA, 96; MiCabrera, Det, 82; Kinsler, Tex, 82; Granderson, NY, 81; Hamilton, Tex, 78.
RBI — MiCabrera, Det, 104; Hamilton, Tex, 102; Willingham, Min, 91; Fielder, Det, 88; AdGonzalez, Bos, 85; Pujols, LA, 85; ADunn, Chi, 84.
Home Runs— ADunn, Chi, 36; Hamilton, Tex, 34; Granderson, NY, 32; **Encarnacion, Toronto, 31;** Willingham, Min, 31; MiCabrera, Det, 31.
Stolen Bases — Trout, LA, 39; **RDavis, Tor, 38.**
Tuesday's games not included

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	76	46	.623	—
Atlanta	70	52	.574	6
New York	57	65	.467	19
Philadelphia	57	65	.467	19
Miami	56	67	.455	20½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	74	49	.602	—
Pittsburgh	67	55	.549	6½
St. Louis	65	56	.537	8
Milwaukee	55	66	.455	18
Chicago	47	74	.388	26
Houston	39	83	.320	34½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	67	55	.549	—
Los Angeles	67	56	.545	½
Arizona	62	60	.508	5
San Diego	54	70	.435	14
Colorado	47	73	.392	19

Tuesday's results
Atlanta at Washington
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Colorado at N.Y. Mets
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee
Houston at St. Louis
Miami at Arizona
Pittsburgh at San Diego
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers
Monday's results
San Francisco 2 L.A. Dodgers 1
Colorado 3 N.Y. Mets 1
San Diego 3 Pittsburgh 1
Miami 12 Arizona 3
Philadelphia 12 Cincinnati 5
Washington 5 Atlanta 4 (13 inn.)
Milwaukee 9 Chicago Cubs 5
Wednesday's games
All times Eastern
Chicago Cubs (T.Wood 4-9) at Milwaukee (Gallardo 12-8), 2:10 p.m.
Miami (Ja.Turner 0-0) at Arizona (Miley 13-8), 3:40 p.m., 1st game
Pittsburgh (Ja.McDonald 11-5) at San Diego (Werner 0-0), 6:35 p.m.
Atlanta (Medlen 4-1) at Washington (Detwiler 7-5), 7:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Arroyo 9-7) at Philadelphia (Worley 6-8), 7:05 p.m.
Colorado (Francis 4-4) at N.Y. Mets (Harvey 2-3), 7:10 p.m.
Houston (B.Norris 5-10) at St. Louis (Lohse 12-2), 8:15 p.m.
Miami (LeBlanc 2-2) at Arizona (Skaggs 0-0), 9:40 p.m., 2nd game
San Francisco (M.Cain 12-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Capuano 11-8), 10:10 p.m.
Thursday's games
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
Houston at St. Louis, 1:45 p.m.
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

NL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
McCutchen Pgh	118	446	86	157	.352
MeCabrera SF	113	459	84	159	.346
Posey SF	111	395	56	129	.327
DWright NYM	118	437	74	140	.320
CGonzalez Col	108	428	78	137	.320
YMolina StL	103	385	47	122	.317
Braun Mil	113	438	79	134	.306
Fowler Col	112	369	67	112	.304
Altuve Hou	113	452	68	137	.303
Holliday StL	118	455	76	137	.301

Runs — McCutchen, Pit 86; MeCabrera, SF, 84; Bourn, Atl, 83; Braun, Mil, 79; CGonzalez, Col, 78.
Tuesday's games not included

BLUE JAYS STATISTICS

BATTERS	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
Sierra	44	5	14	2	5	.318
Encarnacion	425	73	123	31	82	.289
Cooper	134	15	38	4	10	.284
Lawrie	397	59	112	9	40	.282
Davis	301	49	77	6	33	.256
Escobar	444	51	109	7	38	.245
Bautista	328	63	80	27	65	.244
Arencibia	281	36	68	16	50	.242
Rasmus	434	56	104	20	66	.240
Johnson	408	52	93	14	46	.228
Lind	198	17	45	8	27	.227
Mathis	155	21	34	7	20	.219
Vizquel	116	11	25	0	3	.216
McCoy	24	4	5	1	6	.208
Gose	74	9	15	0	2	.203
Hechavarria	30	1	5	0	1	.167

PITCHERS	W	L	SV	IP	SO	ERA
Mathis	0	0	0	2.0	0	9.00
Jenkins	0	0	0	8.0	3	1.13
Lyon	1	0	0	12.0	22	1.50
Oliver	2	2	2	44.0	42	1.84
Janssen	1	1	16	47.2	48	2.27
Loup	0	2	0	18.0	12	2.50
Morrow	7	4	0	77.2	67	3.01
Villanueva	6	3	0	87.0	90	3.10
Perez	2	2	0	42.0	39	3.43
Delabar	3	1	0	47.0	63	3.83
Frasor	1	1	0	36.0	45	4.00
Hutchison	5	3	0	58.2	49	4.60
Drabek	4	7	0	71.1	47	4.67
Laffey	3	4	0	67.0	37	4.70
Alvarez	7	11	0	147.0	56	4.84
Happ	2	1	0	23.0	24	5.09
Romero	8	10	0	149.2	104	5.53
Lincoln	0	0	0	11.0	8	6.55
Santos	0	1	2	5.0	4	9.00
Coello	0	1	0	6.1	11	12.79

Tuesday's game not included

GOLF

MEN'S WORLD RANKING

Through Aug. 20

1. Rory McIlroy	Nlr	10.42
2. Luke Donald	Eng	9.61
3. Tiger Woods	USA	8.63
4. Lee Westwood	Eng	7.23
5. Webb Simpson	USA	6.20
6. Adam Scott	Aus	6.18
7. Bubba Watson	USA	6.14
8. Justin Rose	Eng	6.05
9. Jason Dufner	USA	6.00
10. Steve Stricker	USA	5.83
11. Matt Kuchar	USA	5.68
12. Keegan Bradley	USA	5.55
13. Graeme McDowell	Nlr	5.26
14. Zach Johnson	USA	5.16
15. Hunter Mahan	USA	4.97
16. Louis Oosthuizen	SAf	4.72
17. Sergio Garcia	Esp	4.69
18. Ernie Els	SAf	4.68
19. Dustin Johnson	USA	4.59
20. Phil Mickelson	USA	4.32
21. Rickie Fowler	USA	4.16
22. Charl Schwartzel	SAf	4.12
23. Ian Poulter	Eng	4.11
24. Martin Kaymer	Ger	4.10
25. Jason Day	Aus	4.03
26. Francesco Molinari	Ita	4.02
27. Bo Van Pelt	USA	3.94
28. Jim Furyk	USA	3.93
29. Brandt Snedeker	USA	3.91
30. Bill Haas	USA	3.79
31. Peter Hanson	Swe	3.75
32. Carl Pettersson	Swe	3.70
33. Nicolas Colsaerts	Bel	3.44
34. Paul Lawrie	Sco	3.40
35. Nick Watney	USA	3.37
36. John Senden	Aus	3.26
37. David Toms	USA	3.24
38. K.J. Choi	Kor	3.18
39. David Lynn	Eng	2.93

TENNIS

ATP

WINSTON-SALEM OPEN

At Winston-Salem, N.C.
Singles — Second Round
Tomas Berdych (2), Czech Republic, def. Alex Bogomolov Jr. , Russia, 6-3, 7-5.
John Isner (3), U.S., def. Martin Klizan, Slovakia, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.
Alexandr Dolgopolov (4), Ukraine, def. Yen-hsun Lu, Taiwan, 6-1, 6-3.
Sam Querrey (7), U.S., def. Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, 6-3, 6-2.
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Julien Benneteau (8), France, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Feliciano Lopez (9), Spain, def. Donald Young, United States, 6-2, 6-3.
Steve Darcis, Belgium, def. Denis Istomin (11), Uzbekistan, 6-2, 6-2.
Jurgen Melzer (13), Austria, def. Michael McClune, United States, 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (10).
Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, def. Pablo Andujar (15), Spain, 6-2, 6-3.
Jarkko Nieminen (16), Finland, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 6-3, 6-3.
David Nalbandian, Argentina, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-2, 6-4.

FOOTBALL

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Toronto	7	4	3	0	160	165	8
Montreal	7	4	3	0	202	213	8
Hamilton	7	3	4	0	207	230	6
Winnipeg	7	2	5	0	159	224	4

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
B.C.	7	5	2	0	182	124	10
Edmonton	7	4	3	0	164	134	8
Calgary	7	3	4	0	200	196	6
Saskatchewan	7	3	4	0	180	165	6

WEEK 9
Thursday's game
All times Eastern
Hamilton at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Friday's game
B.C. at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Saturday's game
Calgary at Saskatchewan, 3 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 27
Edmonton at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
WEEK 10
Friday, Aug. 31
B.C. at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 2
Winnipeg at Saskatchewan, 4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 3
Toronto at Hamilton, 1 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 4:30 p.m.

NFL PRE-SEASON

Monday's result
Philadelphia 27 New England 17
Thursday's games
All times Eastern
Green Bay at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.
Jacksonville at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.
Arizona at Tennessee, 8 p.m.
Friday's games
New England at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
San Diego at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Kansas City, 8 p.m.
Chicago at N.Y. Giants, 8 p.m.

WTA

TEXAS OPEN

At Grapevine, Texas
Singles — First Round
Jelena Jankovic (2), Serbia, def. Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (4), 6-1.
Roberta Vinci (3), Italy, def. Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, 6-2, 6-2.
Peng Shuai (6), China, def. Ayumi Morita, Japan, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.
Eugenie Bouchard, Westmount, Que., def. Galina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-3.
Pauline Parmentier, France. def. Irina Falconi, United States, 6-1, 6-4.
Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, def. Anne Keothavong, Britain, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (9).
Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-2, 6-2.
Mirjana Lucic, Croatia, def. Emily Webley-Smith, Britain, 6-1, 6-2.

NEW HAVEN OPEN

At New Haven, Connecticut
Singles — First Round
Zheng Jie, China, def. Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, 7-5, 6-2.
Singles — Second Round
Sara Errani (4), Italy, def. Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Marion Bartoli (5), France, def. Sloane Stephens, U.S., 6-1, 0-6, 6-3.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Kansas City	25	14	7	4	31	22	46
New York	25	13	7	5	43	36	44
Chicago	24	12	7	5	30	26	41
Houston	25	11	6	8	37	29	41
D.C.	23	11	8	4	37	30	37
Montreal	27	11	13	3	39	44	36
Columbus	22	8	8	6	23	24	30
Philadelphia	22	7	12	3	24	28	24
New England	24	6	13	5	27	31	23
Toronto	24	5	14	5	27	43	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	25	14	6	5	48	32	47
Salt Lake	26	13	10	3	37	32	42
Seattle	24	11	6	7	34	24	40
Los Angeles	26	11	11	4	44	40	37
Vancouver	26	10	9	7	28	33	37
Dallas	27	8	11	8	33	35	32
Chivas	22	7	9	6	15	26	27
Colorado	25	8	15	2	32	36	26
Portland	24	5	13	6	24	42	21

Note: 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie.
Wednesday's games
All times Eastern
Chicago at D.C., 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Friday's game
Salt Lake at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
D.C. at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
New England at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chivas, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Dallas at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.
New York at Kansas City, 9 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

HEAD OFFICE — Reduced 3-game suspension of Cincinnati C Devin Mesoraco to 2 games.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Assigned 1B Cory Segui and C Brett Frantini to the GCL Orioles.
BOSTON RED SOX — Placed OF Carl Crawford on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 20. Reinstated OF Daniel Nava and RHP Vicente Padilla from the 15-day DL. Optioned 3B Danny Valencia to Pawtucket (IL).
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed OF Alejandro De Aza on 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 18. Recalled OF Jordan Danks from Charlotte (IL).
MINNESOTA TWINS — Recalled RHP Liam Hendriks from Rochester (IL).
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated OF Seth Smith from 15-day DL. Placed LHP Jordan Norberto on 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 18. Optioned 2B Jemile Weeks to Sacramento (PCL). Designated RHP Graham Godfrey for assignment.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Reinstated DH Luke Scott from the 15-day DL. Optioned SS Sean Rodriguez to Durham (IL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Selected contract of C Yorvit Torrealba from New Hampshire (EL).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Recalled RHP Sam Demel from Reno (PCL).
CHICAGO CUBS — Selected contract of LHP Chris Rusin from Iowa (PCL). Optioned LHP Jeff Beliveau & INF Adrian Cardenas to Iowa. Transferred RHP Matt Garza to 60-day DL.
CINCINNATI REDS — Recalled C Dioner Navarro from Louisville (IL). Optioned RHP Logan Ondrusek to Louisville.
COLORADO ROCKIES — Reinstated RHP Jhoulys Chacin from 15-day DL. Placed OF Eric Young Jr. on 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 20.
L.A. DODGERS — Reinstated RHP Rubby De La Rosa from the 60-day DL. Optioned RHP Javy Guerra to Albuquerque (PCL). Assigned RHP Amalio Diaz to Great Lakes (MWL).
NEW YORK METS — Recalled LHP Robert Carson from Buffalo (IL).
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Recalled RHP Phillippe Aumont from Lehigh Valley (IL).
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Optioned RHP Kyle McPherson and LHP Justin Wilson to Indianapolis (IL). Recalled RHP Daniel McCutchen from Indianapolis.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jake Westbrook on a one-year contract through 2013.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Extended their player development contract with Lake Elsinore (Cal) through the 2014 season.

FOOTBALL

NFL

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed CB Nate Ness on injured reserve.
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed DT DeMario Pressley on the waived-injured list.
DENVER BRONCOS — Removed S Jim Leonhard from the physically-unable-to-perform list and added him to the 90-man roster. Waived CB Joshua Moore.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed TE Nathan Overbay and S Don Carey on the waived-injured list. Signed CB Isaac Madison. Claimed DT Bobby Skinner off waivers from the N.Y. Giants.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Waived RB Ryan Mahaffey.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Waived DL Jonathan Fanene, OL Kyle Hill & PK Chris Koepplin.

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Finance from **$139††** at **0% APR** bi-weekly for 84 months with $695 down

+ **$1,500 Dealer Signing Bonus‡**

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†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2012 Mazda vehicles. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $23,995 for the new 2012 Mazda5 GS (E6SD62AA00) with a financed amount of $20,000, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is $0, monthly payment is $238.10, total finance obligation is $20,000. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $15,695 for the new 2012 Mazda2 GX (BX5B52AA00) with a financed amount of $15,000, the cost of borrowing for a 72-month term is $0, monthly payment is $208.33, total finance obligation is $15,000. Offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST. ▲0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY models for a limited time. Up to 84 month term available for 2012 Mazda3 sedan GS-SKY models. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $21,245 for the new 2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY (D4SK62AA00) with a financed amount of $20,000, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is $0, monthly payment is $238.10, total finance obligation is $20,000. Offer includes freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offer excludes HST. ‡Dealer Signing Bonuses are available on retail purchase/finance/lease of all new, in-stock 2012 Mazda models (excluding 2012 Mazda3 GX and GS-SKY models) from August 1st – 31st, 2012. Bonus amounts vary by model. Maximum $2,000 Dealer Signing Bonus available on 2012 CX-9 models. $500/$500/$400/$500/$1,500/$2,000 Dealer Signing Bonus applies to new 2012 Mazda3 GT/2012 Mazda3 Sport GT/2012 Mazda2/2012 Mazda5/2012 Mazda6/2012 CX-9 models. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. ††Financed Pricing for new 2012 Mazda3 GX (D4XS52AA00)/2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY (D4SK62AA00)/2012 Mazda2 GX (B5XB52AA00)/2012 Mazda5 GS (E6SD62AA00)/2012 Mazda6 GS-I4 (G4SY62AA00)/2012 CX-9 GS (0VSB82AA00) is $17,695/$21,245/$15,695/$23,995/$25,995/$38,495 financed at 0%/0%/0.99%/0%/0%/0% over 84/84/84/84/84/84 months equals bi-weekly payments of $95/$114/$85/$129/$139/$199 with $495/$495/$695/$495/$695/$2,195 down payment, cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$529/$0/$0/$0 with a total obligation of $17,695/$21,245/$16,223/$23,995/$25,995/$38,495. Offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST. *Based on highway driving only. ΩBased on 2012 fuel consumption ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes and down payment are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid August 1st – 31st, 2012 while supplies last. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. ® Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

A family-friendly fuel saver

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Engine

The hybrid features a 156-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that co-ordinates with a 141-horsepower electric motor for a combined 200 horsepower. That's up from the 2011 Camry's total of 187 horses, but a weight reduction of about 115 kilograms helped give the hybrid plenty of uphill and passing prowess.

2012 Toyota Camry Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 with electric motor (200, combined).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 4.4/4.9.
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $28,600.

Stretch-out room

The Camry hybrid's true strength, especially on long trips, is providing plenty of comfortable stretch-out room for front and rear-seat passengers alike. It's like getting mid-size accommodations, but with the fuel consumption of a compact car.

A minor drawback is the 13 per cent reduction in trunk volume when compared to gasoline-only Camry, which isn't overly generous to begin with. With an on-the-road starting price of $28,600 for the LE model, its only about $1,000 pricier than the smaller and more sluggish Prius.

That makes the Camry hybrid a family-friendly fuel saver without equal.

There's less trunk space in the hybrid than the standard Camry.

Review. Camrys are known for their spaciousness, but the Hybrid adds low-fuel consumption to the package

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Cutting fuel consumption is only one of this Camry's many tricks, as a week of city and highway travel reveals.

Not with a bang but a whimper is how T.S. Eliot's poem The Hollow Men concludes. That also pretty much describes how Toyota's latest Camry Hybrid starts up.

Pressing the hybrid's "ON" button initially produces nary a sound, but does cause the dashboard gauge pods and control panel to glow.

But wait a few seconds and the gasoline engine portion of the duo gently comes to life as a reminder that it too is an integral part of the powertrain.

Studying the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the Camry Hybrid involved a 3,000-kilometre excursion across a variety of city and country thoroughfares. From the outset, the idea was to drive the Camry as if it were any gasoline-powered vehicle.

On the highway the general flow of traffic was matched, which usually meant driving 15-25 km/h above the posted limits, with occasional passing bursts above that range.

When all was said and done, the Camry hybrid performed admirably. Average real-world fuel economy remained consistently in the 6.7-7.1 l/100 km range in combined city/highway driving. That's nowhere near Transport Canada's unrealistic claim of 4.7, but it's still pretty decent given the hot weather and use of A/C, load factor and exuberant driving circumstances.

The Camry hybrid is a competent piece of eco-hardware and without question is a cut or two above the first-gen model.

The hybrid interior adds a few buttons and extra gauges to track consumption, but otherwise it's just like a regular Camry. More lower back support would be appreciated.

Here's a front-view look at the Camry Hybrid.

By comparison

1 Ford Fusion hybrid
Base price: $35,000 (est.)

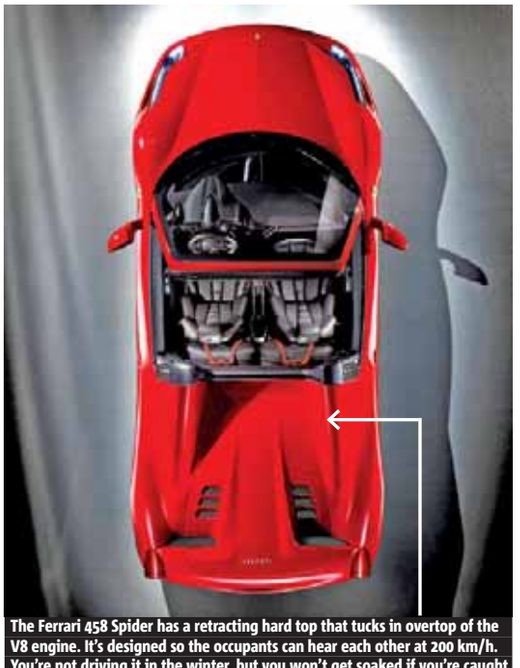
2 Kia Optima
Base price: $32,200

3 Chevrolet Malibu Eco
Base price: $28,000, est.

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

The Volkswagen EOS's mechanical tricks are fun to watch and when the roof is down it looks like it was designed that way. It holds four people and with front-wheel-drive and good tires, it could be used all year. ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE MEDIA



The Ferrari 458 Spider has a retracting hard top that tucks in overtop of the V8 engine. It's designed so the occupants can hear each other at 200 km/h. You're not driving it in the winter, but you won't get soaked if you're caught in a downpour.

Evolution of the convertible

Auto Know.
It's been a long and winding road for the topless symbol of summer

TODD D. BURLAGE
Wheelbase Media

Hardtop convertibles are all the rage because they're weatherproof, they quiet down the ride and are rather cool to watch go up and down, actually. The Mercedes SLK, the Mazda Miata PRHT, the Volkswagen EOS and even the Ferrari 458 Spider put metal where cloth used to be. Push a button ... it's just that easy.

But even on the best days, a modern convertible will cook your head and vehicle interior when the weather is sunny and then freeze you out when the weather turns cold. Put in that context, it's tough to define — or even understand — the popularity turbulence of the American convertible in its 85 years on the road.

The automotive anomaly went from a curiosity in the 1930s, to a tragic James Dean snapshot of the 1950s, to near extinction in the 1970s, to resurrection in the 1980s ... and everywhere in between along the way.

Demand for the convertible will never reach the levels of the 1950s and 1960s when the 19-foot Lincoln Continental led the list of "Land Yachts" that became standard equipment on North American roadways.

But with convertible classics such as the Chevrolet Camaro and Corvette and the Ford Mustang on the 2013 product list, this topless symbol of summer and a staple of driving freedom remains strong.

"Whether it's enjoying a lazy drive on a winding two-lane or cruising to a local drive-in," Rex Roy wrote in a recent tribute story for Popular Mechanics. "Summer and convertibles go together like lemonade and ice tea."

The evolution of the convertible has been dramatic, mainly because automakers and engineers have spent decades chasing design flaws caused from all the moving parts needed to open and close or attach and detach the roof.

In the beginning, all cars were open air because they were nothing more than motorized horse buggies, where design efforts centred on engine performance and reliability, not on creature comforts ... like a proper roof and side glass or a heating system that could keep the glass from fogging up in a fully enclosed vehicle.

The demands for improved safety and shelter led Cadillac founder Henry Leland to introduce the fully closed body design in 1905. By 1925, the closed-cabin vehicle controlled 90 per cent of the market, essentially cutting out the open-air era, but not deterring an underground push for a true "convertible" that would balance the freedom of openness with the comfort of enclosure.

Quote

"Summer and convertibles go together like lemonade and ice tea." Rex Roy

The convertible needed a breakthrough, and it got one in 1939 when Plymouth introduced the first power-controlled top.

The convenience of the power top was a brief boon, but the fruits of those improvements would have to simmer as automobile production in North America was all but halted for six years during the Second World War from 1939-'45.

But a booming post-war economy, consumer confidence, fresh designs from General Motors and some slick concepts from Ford helped push demand for the convertible through the 1950s to more than five per cent of all new car sales, it's highest level on record.

Ford controlled much of the convertible market in the 1950s with its popular Thunderbird and Fairlane models. General Motors, meanwhile, was making a mark with its "hardtop" convertible design in the Cadillac Coupe de Ville and Buick Roadmaster. The hardtop convertibles were constructed with fixed roofs and not built with the manual top-off, top-on design. But the pillarless look and disappearing side windows offered the feel of a convertible with the added protection and safety of a closed vehicle. But, when it was off, the roof needed to go someplace, which was far from handy on long journeys.

The popularity of Ford models and the success of the GM hardtops kept convertible demand levels at about six per cent of the automotive market through the 1960s, and right up until social events and economic failure ended the Glory Days and put the North American convertible on the endangered list. The carefree attitude of the 1950s and '60s gave way to the recessive '70s with two oil embargoes, government proposals for expensive roll-over crash protection, and a general disapproval in the quality control of domestic automakers. Manufacturers continued to drop convertibles from their assembly lines and in 1976, Cadillac announced its Eldorado would be the "last convertible in America," prophetically holding that distinction until Chrysler saviour Lee Iacocca unveiled the wildly popular Chrysler LeBaron convertible in 1982.

After a five-year hiatus, manufacturers were again making convertibles and Iacocca was being celebrated for saving both Chrysler and the North American convertible.

Ford and GM followed suit and converted their popular-selling Sunbirds, Cavaliers, Mustangs and Camaros, while Chrysler continues to manufacture its popular Sebring (now 200) convertible.

European and Asian automakers offer a more eclectic lineup for convertible enthusiasts and budgets but most significant is that most sports cars were convertibles, whether MGs, Triumphs or the amazing Austin Healey Hundred.

Of course, the unmatched comfort of the traditional closed-air sedan will always keep the convertible in its isolated place among new car buyers, but the convenience of the metal folding top is helping to make it easier to justify what was once considered a frivolous second-car purchase.

A convertible as a primary mode of transport? Yes, indeed, as they now merge somewhat sensible transportation and wind-in-your hair freedom into one vehicle.

Mazda began offering a power retracting hard top for the MX-5 Miata since the 2007 model year. Great looking and more security, although there's an obvious sacrifice when it comes to luggage space when the top is folded away.

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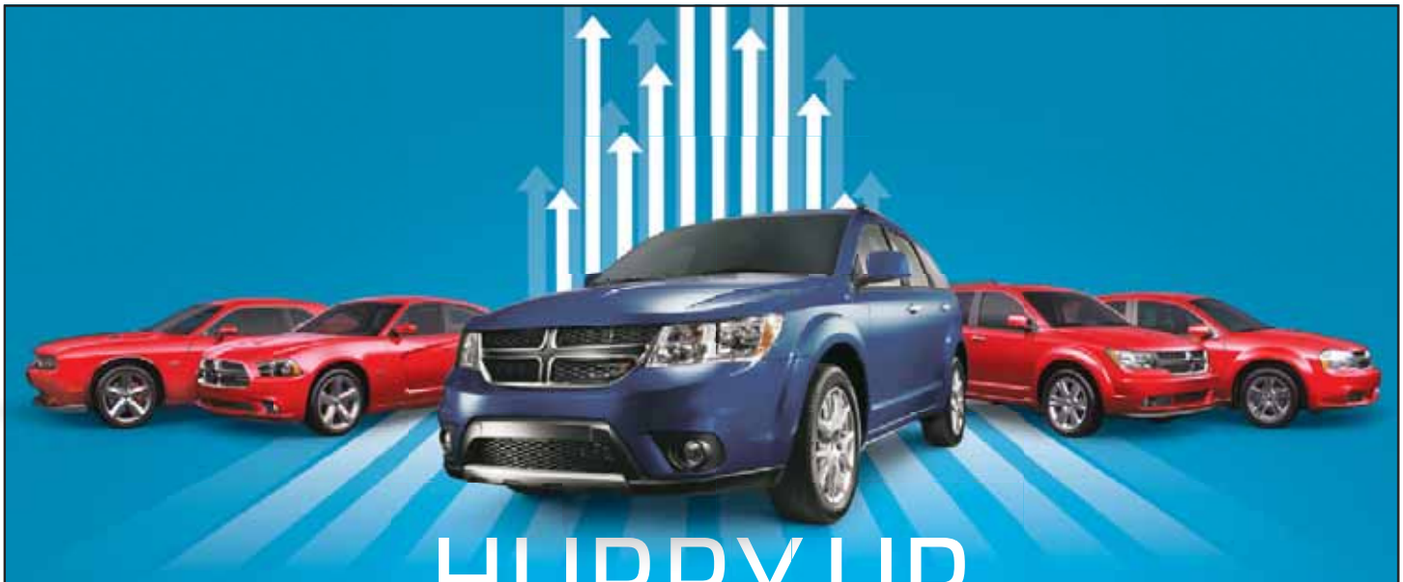

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Driver training best left to non-parents

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

You can never start not listening to your father too early. Amelia Goetz, around 1 1/2 years old, behind the wheel of her father's Jaguar and not looking at all where she's driving. CONTRIBUTED

Sixteen candles light up Amelia's birthday cake. They also produce an invisible cloud of angst, which settles nicely in her father's psyche.

Looming directly ahead: The Year Amelia Learns to Drive.

The father is an automotive journalist, and more than familiar with the statistics, which show teenage drivers are particularly good at crashing.

Young people like to travel in packs. Net result: A motor vehicle accident is the leading cause of death for people 15-24 years of age (Statistics Canada). That group had 2,247 total deaths in 2007 — 703 were due to motor vehicle accidents.

His line of business has also made him ruminate quite a bit on how one should go about driving a motor vehicle. Family members have even mentioned, on several occasions, that he might ruminate about such matters a bit too much. So he wonders if he might be too harsh a critic for a burgeoning driver, and for one he is already holding his breath for…

He also understands that maybe he knows the student too well. He cannot forget, for instance, all the absent-minded manoeuvres and poor decision-making she displayed when she was four.

The father also remembers how he was taught to drive by his own father — a generally successful endeavour, punctuated by a memorable blow-up that made suppers awkward for several weeks later, until respective tempers cooled down. The student at the time always thought that a professional instructor would not have gotten quite that angry at him for "almost" driving into a big fence post. (Though time has seen that student sympathize a bit more with his old man, and that man's feelings for his prized, brand-new 1973 Plymouth Fury II.)

All this made the current father wonder if he was the right man for the job.

It was always the family's plan to get Amelia into a professional driving course at some point. What harm would it do, for the father to first teach her some basics?

So when Amelia recently obtained her beginner's licence (known as G1 in Ontario), and requested a first lesson from her father, the father said "OK."

While Amelia meandered around the Loblaws' parking lot somewhat inconsistently, the father forced himself to be especially calm, encouraging, and instructive. He took solace in the fact that this particular student always came through in the end, always took responsibility, and could already do many clever things. He took pains not to instruct too much. He thought things went well.

Funny then, that Amelia remembers it differently. She remembers her father being too tense and nervous, too wordy, and too critical. It was an environment, she says, not at all conducive to learning a difficult task.

Driver training is best left to the professionals — they know their stuff, and they're not the parents.

Congratulations Martine!

The winner of Toyota's Pick Your Prius contest is Martine Bell. She picked the car that suited her family best: the original Prius!

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Century-old technology helps current hybrids

Driving Force.
Atkinson cycles decrease power in engines, but increase fuel efficiency

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

It's been said that "everything old is new again." That's definitely the case with the Atkinson cycle engine, which is used on several hybrid vehicles, including the Toyota Prius. This modern technology is based on a system devised by James Atkinson back in the 1880s.

"You're drawing more energy out of the gasoline," says John-Paul Farag, manager of advanced technology and powertrain at Toyota Canada. "There's no extra maintenance, and it doesn't feel any different, but it's a different way of timing the valves to squeeze more power out of the fuel."

Engines contain pistons, which move up and down to turn a large central crankshaft that eventually powers the wheels, much the same way that your legs go up and down to pedal a bicycle. The pistons are powered by gasoline, and the length of their movement is called the stroke. Each piston makes four strokes per cycle: drawing in gasoline vapour, compressing it, providing the power, and then pushing out the exhaust.

By adjusting the opening and closing of the valves that let in the gasoline, engineers can adjust the length of each stroke. In an Atkinson cycle, the piston strokes are manipulated to be as fuel-efficient as possible. This means the engine isn't as powerful, which is why the Atkinson cycle isn't used in regular vehicles.

"What we're trying to achieve is a much more efficient cycle, but the drawback is at the expense of power," Farag says. "It's ideal for hybrids, because they have electric motors to compensate."

When more power is needed, such as for acceleration — power that a regular Atkinson cycle engine wouldn't be able to provide on its own — the hybrid's electric motor runs in conjunction with the gasoline engine to give the driver what's needed. While hybrids traditionally get their best mileage in the city, the Atkinson cycle also allows them to achieve excellent fuel economy on the highway, since the electric motor and gasoline engine work together.

The Toyota Prius C uses the Atkinson cycle. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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What do I ask when getting an oil change?

Advice. Don't blindly get maintenance done on your car, have a plan instead

Oil changes are probably the most common of automotive services — performed so frequently that consumers may often pass up the opportunity to get more for their service dollar.

With automakers trying to gain increased efficiency, the "ordinary" oil change is becoming more comprehensive. Not only are companies recommending synthetic motor oil, but many automakers are developing their own oil specifications.

"The best way for consumers to ensure that they're getting optimal protection and using a product that meets factory specs is to ask a few questions to their service provider," says Jay Buckley, an ASE-certified master mechanic and technical training manager at Fram Group.

Doing your homework by reading the owner's manual is always a plus, he notes, but simply knowing what to ask will go a long way. Here are Buckley's recommendations:

Ask what's included in the service

Many dealers and service stations bundle several different inspections in with the oil change. It's a great time for a mechanic to inspect brakes, hoses and undercar components to help stop a small problem from becoming a big and expensive one. In most cases, these additional inspections are a bargain.

Ask if the right specification of motor oil is being used

Oil-change facilities like to use "bulk oil," which as the name implies, is a single viscosity grade and specification of oil bought in bulk from a supplier. It will often suffice for many motor vehicles, but certainly not all. If your car or SUV requires a specialized formula of motor oil, such as high-efficiency 0W-20 synthetic, or a manufacturer's specification, such as GM dexos, this "standard" oil may cause problems and potentially invalidate the new-car warranty.

Ask if a premium oil filter will be installed

Often overlooked during an oil change is the quality of the oil filter. A premium filter, such as Fram UltraTM, can trap more damaging dirt from circulating through your engine. In standardized tests, this filter had double the dirt-holding capacity of the leading economy filter brands' average. The ability to trap and hold harmful particles for as much as 24,000 km becomes much more important as automakers extend service intervals, often to just once a year.

How your mechanic handles these questions can help you determine if you trust his or her work. Not only that, but you'll become an informed consumer, more knowledgeable about protecting your automotive investment.

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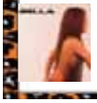
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you look at the big picture today while leaving the details to other people, you will come unstuck. One detail in particular, if neglected, could cause you all sorts of problems, especially at work.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be generous by nature but there are times when you need to do less for others and more for yourself, and this is one of them. What is it you most desire? Go out and get it today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The Sun's move into one of the more emotional areas of your chart will show you how you have been neglecting family and loved ones. It's not too late to do something about it but start now.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you are bored with the same old places and the same old faces, why not get up and get on the move? If you think about it, there is nothing to hold you back — though that won't stop some people from trying.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun moves into the money area of your chart today, so you need to pay attention to your spending habits. If you have been living beyond your means then cutbacks have to be made. No, not later — right now!

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A new solar year begins today and already you can sense that it will be a special one. Never mind about all those promises you made and never lived up to — dare to dream and your dreams will come true.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may not have achieved as much as you wanted to by this stage of the year but don't feel bad about it because there is still time to make a difference. You have so much to look forward to, so smile.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Anyone who thinks you are too cautious will be surprised by the things you get up to over the next few days. You have the planets' permission to, if not break the rules exactly, to at least bend them a little.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You won't be content with minor victories today — you want to show the world that you are the best at what you do. Ambition is a wonderful thing, but do you have self-knowledge to go with it?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun's move into your fellow Earth sign of Virgo marks the start of a four-week phase when most things will go right for you. Does that mean you should take a few more chances? Yes it does.

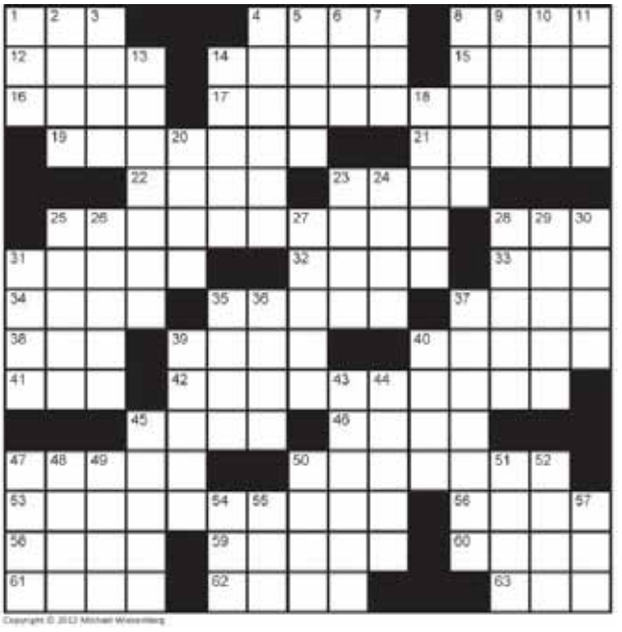
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
As an Aquarian you are used to the ups and downs of life but even you need a safe and stable place to rest once in a while. If you haven't got such a place you need to start making one now.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun in Virgo over the next few weeks will bring partnership issues to a head and that's good. There can be no more running away from your emotions — you have got to share your feelings with the world.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Famous Canadians

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. ___ Paulo, Brazil
4. Altar end of a church
8. Operatic solo
12. A tbsp. contains three
14. Snooped
15. Throw away
16. Perhaps the most common word heard in early Beatles songs
17. Sudbury, Ontario-born *Jeopardy!* host (2 wds.)
19. Applauded
21. Lets up
22. Come ___ end: conclude (2 wds.)
23. Ball-shaped cheese
25. Art ___: Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan-born *House Party* and *People Are Funny* host
28. "Do ___ say!" (2 wds.)
31. Indian currency
32. 10 million of them equal a joule
33. Capt.'s subordinates
34. Hertz Rent-___-___
35. 640 make 1 square mile
37. Toronto-born classical pianist Gould
38. "Just a___": little bit
39. Cupid
40. Icy precipitation
41. Snake warning
42. Ottawa-born star of *The Blues Brothers* and *Ghostbusters* (2 wds.)
45. 2:1 or 3:1
46. Consumes
47. "See if ___!" (2 wds)
50. Lightweight umbrella
53. Montréal-based 2011 Juno Album of the Year winning group (2 wds)
56. A Great Lake
58. After-dinner candy
59. John ___: first American to orbit the earth and, later, Ohio senator
60. Alta. neighbor
61. Something in one's bonnet, maybe (2 wds.)
62. Rowboat equipment
63. Fall behind

Down
1. Pig pen
2. "Be with you in ___!" (2 wds)
3. Australia's gemstone
4. Garfield's feline girlfriend
5. "The ___ Piper of Hamelin"
6. Gender
7. Summer time in Ont.
8. The ___: series starring Mr. T (2 wds.)
9. Burglarizes
10. "Mmm-hmm" (2 wds.)
11. Requests
13. Montréal-born *Star Trek* star
14. Concerning the Vatican
18. Raises
20. Jab
23. To be: Fr.
24. Grads get them: abbr.
25. George who created *Star Wars*
26. Apple tablet computers
27. ___ firma: ground beneath one's feet
28. Common trashcan site
29. Horse
30. "It ___ your concern": "None of your business"
31. "Drat!"
35. *Diary of* ___ *Housewife* (2 wds.)
36. Jailbirds
37. ___ over: examines perfunctorily
39. Appended
40. Spanish equivalent of mlle.
43. Aches (for)
44. Actress Black or Allen
45. Speechify
47. "___ Rock": Simon and Garfunkel hit
48. Baby's bed
49. Teenager's problem
50. Fishing site
51. Spoken
52. Bart Simpson's sister
54. Megalomaniacal feature
55. Tampa's state: abbr.
57. Heart measure, for short

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

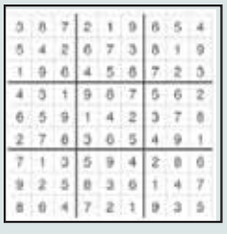
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

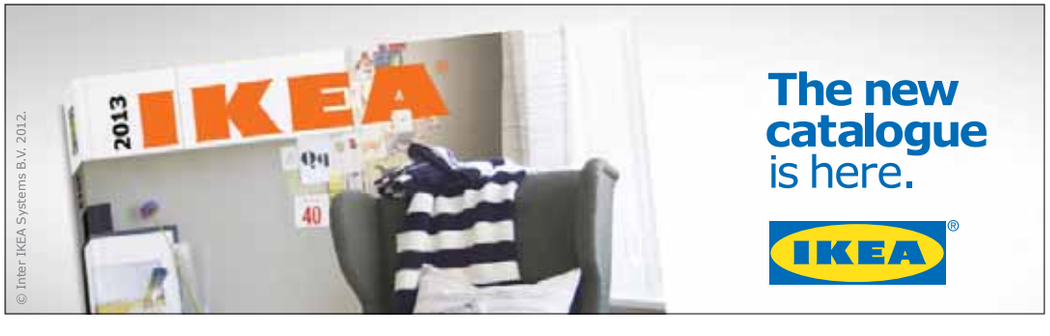
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

6								7
	3	2				9	1	
			5	3	9			
		4	6	8	5	1		
2	5						8	6
		6	4	2	7	5		
			2	9	1			
	7	3				6	2	
1								9

Yesterday's Sudoku





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